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Court blocks municipal strikes in 14 cities

By DAVID HARRIS

The Tel Aviv District Labor Court last night issued restraining orders preventing strike action by 14 municipalities, including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa.

The other towns where strikes are not anticipated are Rishon LeZion, Givatayim, Bat Yam, Holon, Netanya, Ramat Gan, Ra'anana, Kfar Sava, Ashdod, Petah Tikva, and Ramat Hasharon. Histadrut campaign head Leon Moros said there will be no industrial action in the towns where restraining orders were served.

The Histadrut said it intends appealing

the decision to the National Labor Court, and announced that all the other 250 local authorities will strike all services, including education, special education, and kindergartens.

The Education Ministry said it is determined to keep schools and kindergartens open. All administrators and teachers employed by the Education Ministry will be working today. Director-General Benzion Dali said. However, parents are urged to call schools to check the latest situation before taking children to school.

A meeting between the Union of Local Authorities and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman

failed to produce a compromise agreement. ULA chairman Adi Eldar rejected Lieberman's offer of NIS 300 million to be handed over this year, and NIS 500m in 1998, of which NIS 200m would be given as a loan this year. The ULA wants the Treasury to cover the local authorities' overall deficit, which stands at some NIS 4 billion.

The ULA, already in the 13th day of its strike action, is calling for additional financial backing from the Treasury to fight increasing deficits and to enable the councils to pay their employees. But several Arab councils, which have not been

The Treasury, meanwhile, is proposing a package of measures aimed at reducing salary excesses in the public sector and especially at executive level in municipalities.

Over the last three years the government has increased its support to the local authorities by some 30 percent, according to figures published yesterday by the Treasury. During this period, some NIS 1 billion has been pumped into the councils to cover their debts.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor is expected to meet with Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz today to discuss the latter's dissatisfaction with worker's

rights, particularly pensions. The Histadrut is planning a general strike in the coming days, in the light of Insurance, Capital Markets, and Savings director Doron Shorer's March decision to change certain orders on the management of the pension funds.

While the Histadrut is making it clear that its campaign is against the Treasury and not the municipalities, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo accused the organization of continuing its struggle against the interests of the public. If workers continue to strike, Tel Aviv will use private contractors to carry out essential services, such as refuse collection. If any strikers

attempt to stop the contractors, they will be dealt with by the police, said Milo.

"The municipality will not allow essential services for residents to be affected," he added.

Strikes are also continuing among junior academic staff at Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Hebrew universities, and 600 public sector psychologists. Both groups are looking to improve wages and conditions.

Meanwhile, the Histadrut announced yesterday that from June some 50,000 government employees will receive NIS 280 for convalescence days, instead of the current NIS 252.

PA helps Galilee clans make 'sulha'

By DAVID RUDGE

A sulha (peace accord) has been reached between battling Moslem and Christian clans in Turan in Lower Galilee - with the aid of Palestinian Authority officials and Israeli-Arab leaders.

It is reported to be the first time that the PA has publicly involved itself in a local Israeli-Arab affair.

The intervention of PA officials and Arab MKs and council heads may indicate their concern about the possibility of a rift between Moslems and Christians and the risk of it spreading to other communities inside the Green Line.

Turan local council head Nagi Nessar said he hoped the sulha would put an end to the month-long fighting which has left one Christian dead and at least four Moslems injured - two seriously.

A police officer also was injured during the riots which have rocked the normally quiet village, 80 percent of whose 9,000 inhabitants are Moslems; the remainder are Greek-Orthodox Christians.

Five homes have been badly damaged in firebomb attacks and windows have been smashed in others, and several cars have been gutted. On two occasions police had to use tear gas to disperse stone- and firebomb-throwing rioters from the rival Moslem Dahleh and Christian Khouri families.

The sulha committee set up in the village following the outbreak of the riots at the end of last month failed to reconcile the sides, despite the intervention of leading Israeli-Arab figures. A breakthrough, however, was reached Saturday when a delegation from the PA, headed by a senior official and including Ahmed Tibi, adviser to Chairman Yasser Arafat, visited.

"On Saturday, the heads of the two family clans signed an agreement in principle in the presence of all the dignitaries, Moslems and Christians. MKs and the delegation from the PA," said Nessar.

"The PA delegation came to help calm the atmosphere and we, the internal committee, managed to persuade the heads of the family clans to meet and take a first step toward mutual trust."

The meeting was preceded by a quiet demonstration by Christian and Moslem residents calling for an end to violence.

Representatives from the monitoring committee of the Israeli-Arab leadership, MKs, dignitaries, and residents took part in the rally and it succeeded," said Nessar.

"But there is an expression in Arabic which says that those who will determine the situation will be the residents of the village themselves," he said. "I call on all residents of the village to honor the agreement."



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (right) meets yesterday with Egyptian envoy Osama Baz to discuss tomorrow's summit with President Hosni Mubarak at Sharm e-Sheikh. (Reuters)

Mubarak summit to focus on Har Homa

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and news agencies

Tomorrow's planned summit between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will go ahead, cabinet secretary Danny Naveh said after intensive talks with Egyptian envoy Osama Baz.

Naveh, who took part in the consultations, expressed hope the summit will be the first step in bridging the gap between Israel and the Palestinians and the first of a series of meetings and talks.

The summit is expected to focus on finding a solution for the Har Homa issue.

Baz spent several hours discussing the proposed meeting at Sharm e-Sheikh with Netanyahu and his advisers on Friday and yesterday, amid speculation the summit was endangered by an apparent misunderstanding over construction on Har Homa.

The government over the weekend denied reports that it is considering a compromise based on a temporary halt of construction.

The Palestinians refuse to continue negotiations unless the building is stopped. The Americans, Egyptians, Europeans, and Jordanians have also indicated their support for a halt, if only temporarily, to enable the resumption of the talks.

Netanyahu said yesterday he is hopeful Egypt can encourage the Palestinians to return to the peace table.

"Egypt can certainly give the Palestinians the encouragement and confidence to move forward on the peace process. The position of Egypt is important," Netanyahu told Fox Television. "I hope Egypt adopts and sticks to a position that seeks moderation and seeks to have the parties come together and talk to one another. In this regard Egypt can play a very important role and I hope it will."

Baz's meetings, first with Netanyahu's advisers Dore Gold, Uzi Arad, and Naveh, and later with the prime minister, went on for more than four hours, in an effort to set the agenda for the summit.

See MUBARAK, Page 2

Leftist coalition leads in first round of French elections

News agencies

PARIS - The combined Left strongly outpolled the ruling Center-Right coalition in the first round of France's parliamentary election yesterday, all polling institutes said.

Projections televised as soon as polling stations closed suggested the electorate had cast a huge protest vote against Prime Minister Alain Juppe's conservative government after two years of austerity and rising unemployment, and the outcome of next Sunday's runoff round is wide open.

The Socialists, Communists, extreme-left, and other left-wing candidates were forecast to capture between 40.6 percent and 41.6 percent of the vote, with the ruling RPR-UDF coalition and other moderate right candidates scoring between 36.1 percent and 37.1 percent.

The extreme-right National Front was projected to win between 14.8 percent and 15.1 percent, its strongest showing in a parliamentary election.

Most of the 577 National



French Prime Minister Alain Juppe and his wife, Isabelle, drive to the polling station in Bordeaux yesterday. (Reuters)

Assembly seats were expected to go to the runoff, where the behavior of National Front voters and of the roughly 32 percent of voters who abstained in the first round will be crucial.

The first-round balloting was a test of President Jacques Chirac's support among the nation's 39 million voters for more austerity, despite record 12.8 percent unemployment, an easy target for Socialist leader Lionel Jospin during the campaign.

Chirac called the vote 10 months early on a bet he and Juppe could still maintain control of parliament before expected new budget cuts needed to qualify for the "euro" currency planned for 1999.

A leftist victory in the runoff would force Chirac into a *cohabitation* that would likely brake his policies in order to preserve France's quality of life.

The main message from the ballot box may be determined by those who do not vote in the two-round elections. The warm-weather and voter apathy appeared to keep turnout low.

By 5 p.m., 54.5 percent of registered voters had cast ballots, the Interior Ministry said. That was slightly lower than in the last two legislative elections, where the final abstention rates were over 30%.

More than 6,000 candidates were vying for the 577-seat National Assembly seats. Chirac's center-right coalition had held 464 seats - 80% - before he dissolved the parliament in April.

The Right's biggest problem in the elections could be the National Front, expected to win between one and three seats and undermine support for the mainstream right. The Front's outspoken leader Jean-Marie Le Pen is hostile to the single currency as a sellout of France's sovereignty and he could go so far as to tell his supporters to vote Socialist.

Sunken boats show traces of ancient Ashkelon

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

A statue of a monkey with two hands covering its mouth and a shipment of 3,500 kg of lead are among numerous finds from some 10 sunken boats found recently off Ashkelon by Antiquities Authority archeologists.

The cargos, dating from the Late Bronze Age (some 3,200 years ago) to the medieval period, were exposed by shifting sands caused by the construction of the Ashkelon marina. They

were first noted by Yossi Ayalon, a diver from the nearby fishing village of Dugit, who reported it to the authority.

The finds, north of the marina, offer indications about the site of the ancient Ashkelon harbor, which was cited in numerous ancient writings but never found. Marine archeologists believe that Ashkelon did not have an artificial harbor like Caesarea, but that seagoing vessels offloaded onto skiffs away from the shore.

In response to growing interest in underwater

archeology, the Antiquities Authority, in cooperation with the Haifa Municipality, has decided to open an underwater archeology museum, the authority announced yesterday. The museum will be located on a limestone ridge about 20 meters below the water and 1,000 meters west of Haifa's southern beaches.

Ancient anchors, stone objects from prehistoric villages, and artifacts found during work on the Carmel beach are to be displayed.

Item contributed to this report.

MKs threaten gov't over Har Homa

By SARAH HONG

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's denials of a compromise on Har Homa were largely disbelieved on the Right, which issued warnings yesterday that moves to appease the Palestinians, Egyptians and Americans will mean the end of his government.

Some MKs in the Land of Israel Front said they had concrete information that a decision already had been taken in the Prime Minister's Office. They said there would be no outright halt to construction, to save Netanyahu's face and to attempt to stave off an uprising within the coalition.

However, there would be a work stoppage, which would be attributed to technical difficulties, or a de facto equal division of the housing between Jews and Arabs.

These theories, rife among front members, were hotly denied by those close to Netanyahu, who said construction for Arabs will not be at sites on Har Homa itself.

This did little to calm the anxieties to Netanyahu's right. The suspicion is he has made pledges to the Egyptians and Americans as a payment for agreement to hold the Sharm e-Sheikh summit.

Officially, however, the front sought to put a positive spin on things and issued a statement urging Netanyahu "not to give in to pressure."

See HAR HOMA, Page 2

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Haredi flag-burning sparks furor

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER

The burning of an Israeli flag by haredim in a Lag Ba'omer bonfire in Mea She'arim on Saturday night fueled passions against the community yesterday, with charges and counter-charges as to the veracity of the incident.

A front-page photograph in *Ma'ariv* yesterday showed a haredi teenager tossing an Israeli flag into the fire, an act which Jerusalem city councilman Haim Miller said was staged by photographers.

"Residents of the neighborhood called me [Saturday] night and said [photographers] gave them the flags to burn and wanted to provoke them," Miller said. "I already knew [Saturday] night that they would be celebrating today in the papers."

The charge was denied by one of the three photographers from Flash 90 who photographed the scene.

"It happens every year," said the photographer. "On Saturday night, they started the fire, about 100, 150 kids and teenagers, and they put some flags on it, maybe 10 to 15 flags. Then somebody came, an adult, and gave them more flags to burn."

The incident was roundly condemned across the political spectrum.

Shai Bazak, Prime Minister's Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman, said Netanyahu

was disturbed by the act, which is unacceptable when carried out by any segment of the population.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid had a similar message. "The claims by the haredim that children are responsible for the flag burning only deepen the shame," he said. "Children do what they hear at home and in schools."

He recalled that Miller had been quoted recently saying the flag is only a rag.

"Not only the children should be detained and condemned but also the teachers and community leaders who incite them to it," Sarid said.

Miller said there was no connection between that quote - which he said was taken out of context - and the incident on Saturday night.

"I didn't say that flags should be burnt. I said that if they don't educate the students on the attributes of the State of Israel, then the flag will remain as a flag, and not as something with content. And a flag without content is nothing. So Sarid shouldn't join the two things together, and he shouldn't find excuses that have the scent of hypocrisy."

Saturday night's incident reignited anti-haredi feelings among the general public, coming two weeks after members of the community threw stones at police during the two minutes of silence on Remembrance

Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars.

Police opened an investigation yesterday into the incident. Police said they are looking for the perpetrator and want to question him.

Miller, who condemned the act, said that the children and teenagers involved would be punished by their rabbis and teachers, and that he had talked to police and that punishment would be sufficient.

"The children who carried it out will be dealt with in their schools [today] - they will be punished for the actual act, even though the incident was staged. If [the Police] know that the teachers are preparing to punish them, they also know that they will do a good job, and they'll leave it to the rabbis."

However, a Police source said that no such agreement was made by the Police.

"We don't know anything about this arrangement, and if we did, we wouldn't even accept this kind of arrangement," he said. "We have an investigation going on, and we will continue until we locate the child. Then we'll decide what to do with him. I'm sure that within a few days we'll know who it is."

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday denounced the incident.

"The Israeli flag symbolizes the unity of the people and its sovereignty," he said. "An attack on the flag is an attack on all of us."

Several MKs filed urgent motions to the agenda on the topic and it is expected to be raised in the Knesset plenum this week.

Tsomet faction chairman Eliezer Zandberg yesterday demanded Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani immediately launch an investigation to find those responsible for the flag-burning and bring them to justice.

"Lately we are witnessing the breaking of all public norms by haredim regarding national values and symbols, starting with the stone throwing during the minute of silence on Remembrance Day and going on to the flag burning on Lag Ba'omer," Zandberg said. "The haredim should realize that these acts will first and foremost harm their own community and their leaders must realize their obligation to restrain their flocks before it is too late."

He also condemned what he said were attempts by the Agudat Yisrael-affiliated newspaper *Hanodia* to whitewash the flag burning.

Shas MK Shlomo Benizri denounced the flag burning, which he said seems to have been the act of minors. He also warned of an atmosphere of incitement against the haredi public which he said could lead in the direction of civil war.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

PA panel charged to fight corruption

By JON IMMANUEL

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has ordered the establishment of a commission to find ways to stop financial mismanagement in the PA, after a report by Arafat's office showed the PA had wasted the equivalent of 37 percent of its annual budget, or \$326 million.

"Much of the waste was due to taxes that were not collected, causing a budget shortfall of \$866 million," chief auditor Jarar Kidwa said. He added that his committee uncovered "dangerous financial and administrative negligence," but he stopped short of accusing anyone of criminal activity.

He said that it was incorrect to say that ministers had siphoned off foreign aid funds into personal accounts. He said the funds, which should have been included in the budget, were kept in private ministerial accounts instead of being forwarded to the Finance Ministry.

The money that was never collected included \$50 million in

import duties on expensive cars, which were never paid by ministers and senior officials.

PA Secretary-General Tayeb Abdel-Raheem was quoted by WAPA, the PA news agency, as saying that Arafat "has ordered the audit department to continue the investigation" and that the committee "will put forward proposals on necessary measures to stop these unacceptable violations."

One of the first proposals to be implemented will be a "\$150 monthly ceiling on mobile phone calls by PA officials," Kidwa said.

While the report criticizes PA ministry employees for financial mismanagement, the larger issue is the size of the PA bureaucracy, which has provided salaries to so many who do so little, kickbacks in the award of contracts, especially in housing construction, and reports of bribery and outright extortion.

Kidwa did not discuss these issues, and it is unclear if they are dealt with in the report, which was distributed to ministries but not to the public.

A-G says it's time for US to free Pollard

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The time has come for Jonathan Pollard, serving a life sentence in the US for spying for Israel, to be released, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said yesterday.

"I think it is time to release him. He has already been in prison for 12 years," Rubinstein said in an interview with *Halishka*, the journal of the Jerusalem branch of the Israel Bar Association. "It is a very long time, especially in view of the fact that he spent some of this time in solitary confinement."

Rubinstein, who was minister at the Israeli Embassy and was in the building when Jonathan and Anne Pollard requested asylum in November 1983, said the world had changed a great deal since then.

"The American intelligence community should view this issue in that light," he said, noting that President Bill Clinton accepted their view. "The feeling is that he received a very harsh sentence. Members of the American judicial system have spoken of shorter sentences," Rubinstein added.

Until two years ago, Rubinstein said, he had personally been involved in the ongoing efforts to release Pollard and that the issue had been brought up by prime ministers Yitzhak Rabin, Yitzhak Shamir, Shimon Peres, and Binyamin Netanyahu as well as presidents Chaim Herzog and Ezer Weizman. Rubinstein reiterated that he had not had a hand in the decision to turn the Pollards away from the embassy.

Rubinstein said that in the past, he had been approached by Pollard's father and sister to assist him. Since the matter is currently before the High Court of Justice, Rubinstein said, he could not comment further.



Laid to rest

Matan Ben-Ari accompanies the remains of his great-aunt and uncle, Rivka and Yehoshua Likvornik, for reburial yesterday at Kiryat Shaul Cemetery. The Likvorniks' remains, and those of Yosef Zucker, Raisel Wolf, and Yehoshua Hess, were reinterred yesterday after being brought from Ukraine, where all five were murdered by the Nazis in the Mogilev-Podolsk concentration camp. (Ronan Engel/Israel Sun)

Rubinstein rejects Deri's request to postpone trial

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein has turned down Shas MK Aryeh Deri's request to temporarily suspend his ongoing trial.

Deri, who is being tried in the Jerusalem District Court for alleged criminal offenses, recently requested that the trial be suspended until the allegations against him in the Bar-On Affair are resolved.

In a letter to Deri's attorney, Navot Tel-Tzur, Rubinstein said yesterday that there is no legal justification to the claim that the proceedings should be halted because Deri's desire for a plea bargain had been made public. The publication of information about contacts on a plea bargain would not affect the sentence, Rubinstein said.

"We are talking about professional judges who are utterly familiar with the file that has been before them for years," Rubinstein wrote, "and who cannot be seen as being influenced by external matters."

Rubinstein added that if the accused was behind the publication of the contacts over a plea bargain, "the weight given to his claim is [even] less."

The district court has more than once requested that it not be involved in matters that are not being heard in the ongoing trial, Rubinstein says, and that it only receive evidence which is relevant to the criminal charges it is hearing.

Rubinstein concluded that there is no connection between the report relating to the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general and the summoning of defense witnesses in Deri's ongoing trial.

MUBARAK

Continued from Page 1

The participants, however, apparently had difficulty establishing an agreed basis which would enable Mubarak to emerge from it with some kind of achievement.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said in Cairo that Mubarak had set no preconditions for his meeting with Netanyahu, but noted that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat had already made clear that the settlement issue had to be resolved before any resumption of the talks is possible.

Jerusalem sources theorized that Mubarak will propose a temporary, six-month halt in the construction on Har Homa and in the settlements, and Netanyahu will accept this as a compromise to enable resuming the stalled peace

talks.

Netanyahu updated President Ezer Weizman after his meetings with Baz on Friday and again yesterday, and the two agreed to meet tomorrow morning, just before Netanyahu leaves for the summit.

Netanyahu also met with US Ambassador Martin Indyk, who is believed to have stressed the importance the US sees in the summit.

Baz also telephoned Weizman last night. Weizman expressed his hope the summit would be a success.

Sources close to Beit Hanassi said that, according to the information relayed to the president, there are still a number of difficulties to be ironed out between the sides.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry denied media reports that a freeze on demolition of illegal structures in Area C had been declared yesterday.

Avi Benayahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's spokesman, said the ministry is determined to enforce law and order in Judea and Samaria, including building laws. Demolitions, he said, would only be carried out after their legality had been thoroughly investigated, and the final approval would be made by senior ministry officials.

Meanwhile, civil administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner said that, since the beginning of the year, approximately 80 structures built by Palestinians in Area C have been demolished, as have three built by Israelis. Two caravans have been towed away.

The houses, on a hilltop near Yitzhar, were demolished nearly three weeks ago, and the two caravans that had been illegally erected in Mitzpe Yericho, were dismantled at the beginning of the month.

Margot Dudkevitch and BatSheva Tsur contributed to this report.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

RUTH KISSINGER ז"ל

The funeral will take place today,
Monday, May 26, 1997,
at the Herzliya cemetery at 2.30 p.m.

Children: Tamara Delman
Micky and Rina Kissinger
Sister: Etti Feuchtwanger
Grandchildren: Einat, Ruli, Dafi and families
Meidad and Dana
Great-grandson: Itamar

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SARA SPITZ

The funeral took place yesterday, May 25.

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Martijn and Dini Spitz, Jerusalem
Nieces and nephews

Shiva: 4-9 p.m. daily.

Driver burns to death in car accident

A driver was burned to death yesterday morning, when his car caught fire after colliding head-on with another car on the Kiryat Gat-Ashkelon road. The driver and a passenger were trapped inside the burning vehicle.

A rescue crew managed to extricate the passenger, who is in serious condition at Ashkelon's Barzilai Hospital. The driver of the other car was moderately injured.

In other accidents, Natalya Messinger, 60, of Jaffa, was killed

yesterday morning, and her husband was moderately injured, when a driver lost control of his car and hit the couple, who had been standing on a traffic island in Holon.

Gavriel Hani, 16, who was hit by a car while crossing the street on Friday morning, died yesterday in Beersheba's Soroka Hospital. According to an initial police investigation, the driver's carelessness caused the accident.

Ten people were moderately to seriously injured in an accident near Beit El yesterday. (Iim)

HAR HOMA

Continued from Page 1

The statement spoke of the front members "strengthening Netanyahu's steadfast resolve."

Nevertheless, unequivocal warnings were sounded: Any backtracking from the present position on Har Homa - even if coated with a variety of pretexts - will lead the group to leave the coalition and bring the government down.

The front, headed by Geshar MK Michael Kleiner, is said to include some 20 MKs from all coalition factions, and is likely to attract the support of others who are not formally associated with it, including that of several Likud ministers, like Limor Livnat and Ariel Sharon.

"It will simply not be possible for us to betray our consciences and continue to support a government if it betrays the most basic and sacred promise it made to the voters - to stand firm on Jerusalem," MK Shaul Yaikalon (National Religious Party) said, "On this issue there is the broadest consensus of all and if the government slides here, then there is no telling where it could take us next."

"We will be very vigilant and will

not buy any cover story masking a halt to Har Homa construction. Even a 24-hour stoppage would not be undone for 24 months thereafter. There must be no yielding here. Our message to Netanyahu is clear: If you retreat, you are out of office."

MK Hanan Porat (NRP) has been visiting Har Homa every morning recently to see if things are proceeding according to plan.

"So far I can only report that work is going ahead at a satisfactory pace," he said. "I plan to make sure this does not change. We will not be fooled. We know that enormous international pressures are being exerted to keep this construction from being carried out, and we realize the temptation there is to do the easy thing, and under one explanation or another, stop the bulldozers."

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'PA intentionally polluting water'

Sharon says Hebron sewage being channeled to Beersheba

News agencies
The Palestinian Authority is intentionally polluting Israel's water sources, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday.
On a tour of settlements in Samaria, Sharon told reporters the PA is conducting "intensive activities in violation of the Oslo Accords" in Area C (the open area in Judea and Samaria), including the paving of illegal roads.
"The authority is trying to establish facts on the ground in order to make things difficult for Israel in the struggle for a final-

status agreement," Sharon said.
The minister accused the PA of knowingly polluting the country's water sources, citing as an example the Hebron Municipality, "which has water purification facilities, but intentionally does not use them and channels the city's sewage so that it reaches the Beersheba area and pollutes the aquifer."
Israel recently stopped an American company from drilling for water for the PA, to prevent the pollution of Palestinian and Israeli water sources with untreated sewage, Sharon's spokesman, Ra'an'an Gissin, said Saturday.
For the past two months Palestinian

municipalities have been pouring untreated sewage from West Bank cities into local streams, which flow into Israel, said Gissin. "It is not only our water they are polluting," Gissin said. "They are contaminating the aquifer, which is their main source of water for the future. If this continues the damage will be irreversible."
In addition to Hebron's sewage, other West Bank cities, including Ramallah and Kalkiya, are also pouring untreated sewage into the streams, and they are polluting the coastal plain, Gissin said.
The American company was drilling for water near Herodion, outside Bethlehem.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu ordered the army to stop the drilling in an attempt to force the Palestinians to use the Hebron sewage treatment facilities, Gissin said.
The water treated in the Hebron plant could be recycled by the Palestinians for crop irrigation, he added.
Sharon has proposed that in the final settlement with the Palestinians Israel should retain control of the water resources. He says Israel should retain two strips of land in the West Bank - one of them 20 kilometers along the Jordan River and the other 10 kms adjacent to the coastal plain.



Retaking the Old City
Maj.-Gen. (res.) Uzi Narkiss, who was OC Central Command during the Six-Day War, yesterday shows where his forces entered the Old City of Jerusalem, during an event at Beit Hanassi opening celebrations marking 30 years since Jerusalem was united in the Six Day War.
(Brian Hendler)

Israel Festival opens Wednesday

By HELEN KAYE

A performance of *Swan Lake* by the world-renowned Kirov Ballet will open the 1997 Israel Festival Jerusalem at the Sultan's Pool on Wednesday. Some 70 ambassadors are expected to attend the ballet which inaugurates 19 days of performances by 57 companies from Israel and around the world.
At a press conference yesterday, festival officials spoke in support of the board chairman Danny Halperin, who wrote a strongly worded criticism of the government, specifically the Foreign and Tourism ministries which have each significantly decreased financial support for the festival.
He added that "the government's decision-making process considerably hampers proper management of the festival in general and may endanger its proper participation in the country's 50th anniversary celebrations next year."

The festival budget is some NIS 10 million, of which approximately eight percent comes from various government offices. The Jerusalem Municipality is the festival's chief sponsor and Mayor Ehud Olmert said yesterday that "next year, we intend to double our funding to NIS 6m., which mirrors the city's continued commitment to Jerusalem as a patron and creator of the arts."
Arts and Culture Administration head Dr. David Alexander said that while "increased funds have not been promised, we have given the festival a cautious green light to plan special projects."
More than 42,000 of the 80,000 tickets available have been presold, and festival general manager Yossi Talgan says that he expects the final tally to be around 60,000, "which is on a par with previous years."

BGU to award degree to Sen. Moynihan

By Jerusalem Post Staff

US Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan will be among those receiving honorary doctorates from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev tomorrow, as part of the annual meeting of its Board of Governors taking place this week.
Among those events is the inauguration today of the Chaim Herzog Center for Middle East Studies and Diplomacy, to be attended by members of Herzog's family, Moynihan, Foreign Minister David Levy, Abba Eban and Palestinian Authority Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ahmed Qreia. The center is to sponsor research on Middle East politics, history and society.
Receiving honorary doctorates with Moynihan will be Volkswagen Board of Directors Chairman Dr. Ferdinand Piëch, Ruth Dayan, historian Prof. Zvi Yavetz and Prof. Howard Raiffa. Moynihan will be honored for his work in the US Senate for dozens of years, and his strong support during that time for the State of Israel. Piëch is being honored for his work in promoting economic

ties between Israel and Germany, and his efforts to tap the Negev's economic potential.
Raiffa is being recognized for his work as one of the world's leading economists and statisticians, while Yavetz is being honored for his work as a historian, especially on the Roman Empire, and Dayan is receiving her honorary degree for work on behalf of many cultural and social causes, including the preservation of ethnic cultures.
The university last night paid tribute to the Deichmann family of Germany, for the efforts made by Dr. Heime-Horst Deichmann to create a joint Israeli-Palestinian economic project: a production line for sandals, combining the efforts of the "Hulata Shoes" factory at Kibbutz Hulata and that of the "Tootsie Shoes" factory in Hebron.
Deichmann owns the Deichmann Shoes chain, considered one of the largest in Europe. Deichmann also has been a long-time supporter of the university, and is vice chairman of its Board of Governors. A chair in business ethics is to be established Wednesday in his name.

Kleiner urges PM to legalize Arutz 7

By LIAT COLLINS

There is a renewed battle over pirate radio station Arutz 7, identified with the settler movement, following reports that the police intend to shut it down.
MK Michael Kleiner (Geshar) has warned Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that closing the station could bring down the government. Kleiner called on Netanyahu to issue it a license to operate legally from Israeli territory.
Kleiner, who heads the Land of Israel Front Knesset caucus, said the station operates from a ship outside of Israel's territorial waters, like Abie Natan's Voice of Peace used to.
"The fact that there are some 100 pirate stations operating illegally, some of which dangerously interfere with the radio frequencies of Ben-Gurion Airport, [but

which are treated very leniently strengthens the impression that the attitude toward Arutz 7, which operates from off-shore, stems from irrelevant considerations," Kleiner said.
"Any attempt to harm Arutz 7... harms the essence of democracy, such as the principles of free speech and expression and a free press."
MK Eitan Cabel (Labor), on the other hand, said Kleiner's actions "amount to an attempt to blackmail the prime minister" and obstruct the police. He has filed an urgent motion to the Knesset agenda on the subject.
Cabel said that Kleiner is misleading the public by saying that the station operates legally, because it has booster antennae ashore.
"Repeating the lie that Arutz 7 broadcasts from outside territorial waters won't make this pirate station legal," he said.

Two new railway stations in North

By SYBIL EHRLICH

The Ports and Railways Authority has almost completed the construction of new railway stations in Kiryat Mozkin and Kiryat Haim. The stations, which replace older ones in the same area, are to be inaugurated on Wednesday in the presence of Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna, Kiryat Mozkin Mayor Haim Tzuri, PRA chairman Azriel Feuchtwanger, PRA director-general Shoshan Lerer, and Israel Railways director-general Amos Uzan.
The new stations cost NIS 12 million, and will serve passengers on the Nahariya-Haifa line and the

suburban services to Haifa. Uzan says the opening of the new stations coincides with the new timetable to be introduced next month, which will double the frequency of suburban trains.
The new stations conform to international safety standards. Each has two platforms, linked by a pedestrian tunnel, a covered waiting area, and adjacent free parking lots.
The trains on the suburban service will be the most modern in use today on Israel Railways.
Since the beginning of the year there has been a 17 percent increase in the number of passengers on the Haifa-Nahariya line over the same period last year.

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NEWS

in brief

Jordan secretly extradites Palestinian to Israel

Jordan secretly handed over to Israel a Palestinian whose wife shot and wounded three people last month at the Allenby Bridge, Israel Radio said yesterday. Iyad Abu Libda was apparently extradited two weeks ago and is being detained on suspicion of incitement, training his wife, and supplying her with a handgun, the radio said.
Abu Libda's wife Sonia shot and wounded an Israeli soldier, a border guard, and a Palestinian on April 13. The couple is from Kalkiya but was living in Jordan. Sonia Abu Libda was arrested by IDF troops and is in jail awaiting trial. AP

Right-wing activist facing assault charges

Police plan to recommend bringing charges against right-wing activist Avigdor Eskin for attacking a passerby who criticized the birthday party he organized for assassin Yigal Amir, Beersheba police chief Dep.-Cmdr. Shimon Sabatani said yesterday.
Last Thursday, Eskin and several other extremists brought a cake, flowers, and champagne to Beersheba Prison and asked the guard to admit them to celebrate Amir's birthday. The guard refused, and a 68-year-old passing cab driver shouted that Eskin should be ashamed of himself. Eskin responded by punching the man, Sabatani said. Iim

Driving examiners suspended

All of the driving license examiners who have been arrested in connection with the bribery scam are to be suspended immediately, Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy announced yesterday.
Police arrested another driving license examiner in the North yesterday. The examiner, who is suspected of accepting bribes, is to be brought before Haifa Magistrate's Court for a remand hearing today. He is the 20th person arrested in the scandal in which examiners are suspected of taking bribes from instructors to pass their students in both theory and driving tests. Iim

University strike enters third week

The strike by junior academic staff at Haifa, Tel Aviv, and Hebrew universities, which began on May 13, enters its third week today.
The Hebrew University was to approve the outline of an agreement by today, reached in the Jerusalem Labor Court, which would grant its junior academic staff salaries over the summer. A similar demand came up in negotiations with Bar-Ilan University, where the strike was suspended until Wednesday. Negotiations at Tel Aviv University are only to begin today, with a similar arrangement to be sought there and at Haifa University.
The Tel Aviv University student association announced that if the strike is not ended by tomorrow, students will go on strike on Wednesday. Jerusalem Post Staff

Carmelit manager accused of embezzlement

Haifa Carmelit board chairman Avi Goldhammer yesterday filed a complaint with police alleging that general manager Dan Fishman, whom he has fired, embezzled some NIS 400,000 from the company last year. He said that Fishman would submit fictitious bills from suppliers, then pay the money into his own pocket. He noted this came to light when the company's accountant conducted a surprise examination of the books. Iim

Research center joins Tel Aviv University

The Felsenstein Medical Research Center in Petah Tikva, affiliated with Kupat Holim Clalit's Beilinson Hospital since its inception in 1993 with a major donation from Alan and Priscilla Fenton of England, will be formally integrated into Tel Aviv University at a ceremony today on the Beilinson Campus where the FMRC is located. The FMRC, which serves as a national medical research center, was established by the Fentons in memory of the husband's two twin brothers, Basil and Gerald Felsenstein, who were killed while in the Royal Air Force during World War II. It has 25 research groups, working in 50 labs, dealing in a large variety of fields, including oncology and metabolic, neurological, psychiatric, and endocrinological disorders. Judy Siegel

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The 27th Board of Governors Meeting
Events taking place on Monday, May 26, 1997

Dedication Ceremony of the
Chaim Herzog Center for Middle East Studies and Diplomacy
in the presence of
Aura Herzog and members of the Herzog Family
Guests of Honor:
David Levy, Foreign Minister of Israel
US Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Abba Eban

Dedication Ceremony of the
Judith and Murray H. Shusterman Wing of the Medical Library
in the presence of **Judith and Murray H. Shusterman, USA**
Naming of the **Moshe Prywes Center for Medical Education**
Guest of Honor: **Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg,**
Director General of Kupat Holim Clalit

For further details, please contact the
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THIS WEEK: Netanya Learning Center; Book Star - "Mr. Mani" (with Michael Shemer & Carol Novis); Dry Bones; ESRA Events.

Telaviv	Tel Aviv - Dan Area	6:30 p.m.
Matav	Haifa Town Area Netanya Area	5:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
Idan	Central & Southern Area	6:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.
Arutzel		
Zahav	Dan & Sharon Areas	9:30 a.m., 9:00 p.m.

President flees Sierra Leone army coup

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY

FREETOWN (AP) - Army troops staged an apparent coup in Sierra Leone yesterday. Their leaders said the country's president had fled and suggested that rebels engaged in a five-year civil war had joined them in the coup.

The radio announced a dusk-to-dawn curfew. Witnesses described heavy exchanges of fire in the capital at the legislature building between the mutinous troops and Nigerian troops assigned to defend Sierra Leone from rebel attacks.

Four people have died, including a woman and a teen-ager, said officials at Connaught hospital in central Freetown, and 21 were wounded. Casualty figures were still coming in.

The coup attempt, launched at dawn with a massive prison break, comes weeks after a rebel war appeared to have restarted in this West African country. A fragile peace accord last year ended the five-year war that ravaged the country and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

Calling himself the spokesman for "other ranks" - apparently, the rank-and-file troops - a man calling himself Cpl. Gborie called on the country's senior military officers to report to military headquarters or they would be at their "own risk."

"Enough is enough, we have to build our nation," Gborie said over national radio. "We want a democracy but ... the government has introduced tribalism."

There was some damage to the building, said the guard speaking with customary anonymity, but he reported no casualties.

Gun and mortar fire was heard throughout the capital.

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"Enough is enough, we have to build our nation," Gborie said over national radio. "We want a democracy but ... the government has introduced tribalism."

He said President Ahmed Tejan

Kabbah had left the country, and that the rebel war was over, suggesting the coup leaders had formed an alliance with the Revolutionary United Front, the main rebel group.

Gborie had said in his 10:40 a.m. broadcast that Nigerian troops were now cooperating with the coup leaders, but fighting continued midday.

The Nigerian troops are in Sierra Leone as part of a defense pact between the two countries to fend off rebel attacks, particularly in Freetown.

The attempted coup was launched at 5:45 a.m. local time when pickup trucks broke open the gates of Freetown's maximum security prison early in the morning, witnesses said.

Within minutes there was a loud bang - apparently grenade explosions that tore open the steel gates of the prison, witnesses said. They said minutes later, hundreds of prisoners began to pour out.

Then truckloads of Sierra Leone soldiers, in ceremonial uniforms of red jackets and black trousers, drove up, firing in the air around the prison.

Among the prisoners were two groups of soldiers currently charged in alleged coup plots against Kabbah's government.

Taliban asserts authority in North

MAZAR-E-SHARIF (AP) - Taliban fighters tightened their hold on newly won northern Afghanistan yesterday, and opened contacts with their last opponents to bargain for peace after decades of war.

As dusk settled, 2,500 more Taliban soldiers rolled into the city promising to implement Islamic law. "Everything that is opposed to Islamic Shariat, we will stop," said Gul Mohammed, a soldier.

The capture of this northern stronghold Saturday and the nighttime escape of warlord Rashid Dostum to Turkey put the Taliban in control of all but two or three of Afghanistan's 29 provinces, or about 90 percent of the country.

Pakistan announced it will recognize the Taliban as Afghanistan's legitimate government, the first country to do so.

But Russia warned it would intervene if fighting spread across Afghanistan's northern border to the Central Asian republics, the

ITAR-Tass news agency said. From loudspeakers atop Mazar-e-Sharif's ancient mosque, defectors from Dostum's army hailed the defeat of the general they betrayed, which led to the collapse of his northern bastion.

"Don't be afraid. Open your shops. All is safe," said Majeed Rozi, one of the commanders who deserted Dostum barely one week ago.

Despite some looting, the streets in Mazar-e-Sharif were calm and free of fighting. "If anyone does you any harm, just come to us," Rozi shouted to hundreds of men and a few women clad in the all-enveloping burqa that the Taliban require all women to wear.

Truckloads of Taliban fighters moved up from the south yesterday to reinforce the renegades who had turned against Dostum and brought about his downfall.

The military governor of the western city of Herat, Abdul Razaq, was appointed to take over the administration of the newly captured northern zone.

Iranian clergy applauds Khatami

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran's conservative Islamic clergy-dominated parliament swung behind the country's moderate president-elect yesterday in a dramatic political about-face after his huge election victory.

The Islamic republic's outgoing president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani also offered to help his successor Mohammad Khatami carry out his programs and plans. The handover is due to take place in August.

More than 200 members of the 270-seat Majlis sent a message to Khatami pledging to cooperate fully. The assembly reopened yesterday after a two-week recess for what turned out to be Iran's fiercest election campaign since the 1979 revolution led by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"No doubt this great epic is a reinforcement of the ideals of the late Imam Khomeini and a renewal of allegiance with the supreme leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei," deputies said in a statement read in open session.

Nearly 200 deputies had supported Khatami's conservative rival, parliament speaker Ali Akbar Naez-Nouri, in the campaign for election and only 70 backed Khatami.



Rescue workers examine bodies found in a burned-out shopping complex in Banjarmasin, Indonesia, yesterday. There were 130 fatalities in the fire, which trapped people in the mall after it was set alight by rioters.

Indonesian riot toll up to 134

News agencies

BANJARMASIN - At least 134 people were killed as a result of rioting in Banjarmasin, the capital of Indonesia's South Kalimantan province, police and rescue workers said yesterday.

Rescue workers said they had found 130 bodies in the burned-out Mitra Plaza shopping and cinema complex in the centre of the river city on Borneo island while police said four others died of burn or stab injuries.

"So far we have 130 bodies that have been found. There are still many more," said one rescue worker at the Mitra complex, who did not want to be identified.

Many badly charred skeletons were found clinging to what remained of pillaged clothes, watches and other goods.

Witnesses said the mall closed and staff when home when trouble began Friday morning. Mobs broke into the building at the height of the riot several hours later.

The mall was soon engulfed in dense black smoke and huge flames.

Some looters escaped, but many stayed inside the burning building, apparently afraid they would be arrested by police and troops who had massed outside, witnesses said.

The fire burned all through Saturday and rescue teams could not start retrieving bodies until yesterday, when the most intense heat subsided. Witnesses said what began as clashes between supporters of the ruling Golkar party and the rival Moslem-oriented United Development Party (PPP) on the final day of campaigning for next Thursday's general elections deteriorated into widespread rioting when security forces did not intervene immediately.

A mob looted a bank on the ground floor of the Mitra complex and set it ablaze. Many people apparently ransacking shops in the plaza were trapped, first from fear of police who arrived on the scene and then by the spreading flames, the witnesses said.

"After the disturbances started, all the shops closed and the employees went home," said one government official at the scene.

"There was no indication that there were employees among the bodies found," Armed forces spokesman Brigadier-General Slamet Supriadi said 181 people had been arrested after the riots in Banjarmasin, a city of about 400,000 people some 885 km east-northeast of Jakarta.

The official Antara news agency said 100 people were being treated in local hospitals

for burns and stab injuries. It said eight shopping centres, 130 houses, 21 cars, 60 motorcycles and three hotels were burned in the rioting and four government buildings were damaged. Witnesses said several churches were attacked and at least one set ablaze.

The city was calm yesterday, but edgy. "I haven't slept for three days," said one soldier posted outside the Mitra complex who had a rifle slung across his chest and a surgical mask on his face to ward off the stench of dead bodies.

Previously, most of the campaign violence in the country had been confined to the main island of Java, primarily between supporters of Golkar and the PPP.

Witnesses said smoke still rose yesterday from a burned out Protestant church and a devastated housing area nearby, where the church caretaker said 500 families had lived.

The director of the Uhin hospital, Dr Sudarto, said 69 people were admitted to his hospital, of whom 30 were still being treated, mainly for broken bones and stab wounds.

At the hospital, the father of a 13-year-old boy being treated for a broken wrist said he had not expected there would be any danger in the election campaign.

Teens arraigned in Central Park murder

NEW YORK (AP) - Two teenagers stabbed a real estate agent at least 30 times and tried to chop off his hands so police couldn't use fingerprints to identify him before dumping him in a lake in Central Park, prosecutors said.

Daphne Abdela, 15, also ordered her boyfriend, 15-year-old Christopher Vasquez, to "gut the body so it would sink" in the lake, prosecutor Carolyn Streicher said.

The teen-agers - Vasquez is a former altar boy and his girlfriend the adopted daughter of a millionaire -

are charged with murder and robbery, accused of killing Michael McMorrow, 44, while drinking beer in the moonlight.

Prosecutors revealed details of the slaying at a court appearance by Abdela. Her attorney said she would plead innocent. Vasquez was expected to be arraigned later yesterday.

McMorrow's head was nearly severed, his hands all but chopped off in the Friday morning attack. His stomach was gashed open and he was stabbed at least 30 times. Friends say he often went to the park to party.

Fear grips Kinshasa

KINSHASA - Laurent Kabila's Democratic Republic of Congo said yesterday that fears of insecurity in the capital were real and that all measures would be taken to tighten government control of the city.

"There are complaints from all sides that the city is not secure, which is entirely true. We think it is just a matter of giving us a little time to be able to control the city which is so full of evil-doers," Interior Minister Mwenze Kongo said in a television announcement.

After two days of street protests against his takeover, Kabila said elections in Africa's third largest country would have to wait for two years.

Just after dawn yesterday heavily armed soldiers, many of them teenagers, moved into Kinshasa's top hotel where most of the new government stays, demanding to search rooms and forcing open doors where guests were sleeping.

Western diplomats said their colleagues living in flats overlooking the riverside prime minister's residence where Kabila now lives had been told to move out.

"They are obsessed by security above anything else," said one diplomat in the teeming capital of five million people.

State radio reported a protest by students on Saturday, saying it was against the presence of foreign troops among Kabila's forces. Demonstrators held for questioning were later released, it said.

Mwenze accused people in Kinshasa of misinforming the Alliance and trying to use troops to settle old scores. He threatened severe action against anyone found lying.

"We will even use corporal punishment," he said.

The television displayed soldiers loyal to ousted president Mobutu Sese Seko who were captured in connection with the looting.

During a rare public appearance on Saturday Kabila, whose forces drove out Mobutu a week after a whirlwind seven-month offensive, said elections would take time.

Kabila told CNN television the country had to prepare for elections but said there would be a "democratic election after a two-year transitional period."

Western countries joined nations in welcoming the toppling of Mobutu and his entourage, who were widely accused of pillaging Zaire and amassing personal fortunes.

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 In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitallers Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land - the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more.
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 Tour guide: Eran Sahar

Thursday June 19
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 Cheese, honey, olive oil and wine - we'll taste them all on our way. We'll start at the organic dairy of KHI, and continue on to the olive oil press at Mrar village with their olive oil soap factory, then the prize-winning Dalton winery. We'll also visit the bee hives of Shadmo' Dvora and its silk production unit. The Galilee is especially beautiful at this time of the year. Join us!
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NEW ZEALAND FILM WEEK

Title	Dir.	Time	Days
A. FORGOTTEN SILVER	Dir: Peter Jackson, Costa Botes		
B. CINEMA OF UNEASE - A Personal Journey by Sam Neill (1996)	Dir: Judy Rymor, Sam Neill	21:30	26.5
CONSTANCE (1994)	Dir: Bruce Morrison	21:30	27.5
SMASH PALACE (1981)	Dir: Roger Donaldson	19:30	28.5
GOODBYE PORK PIE (1980)	Dir: Geoff Murphy	21:30	29.5
HEAVENLY CREATURES (1994)	Dir: Peter Jackson	22:00	30.5
ONCE WERE WARRIORS (1993)	Dir: Lee Tamahori	21:30	31.5
NGATI (1987)	Dir: Barry Barclay	19:00	2.6
UTU (1983)	Dir: Geoff Murphy	22:00	3.6
THE END OF THE GOLDEN WEATHER (1992)	Dir: Ian Mune	19:00	4.6
THE PIANO (1993)	Dir: Jane Campion	21:30	6.6
AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (1990)	Dir: Jane Campion	21:30	7.6
WAR STORIES (1986)	Dir: Gailene Preston	19:00	8.6
SLEEPING DOGS (1977)	Dir: Roger Donaldson	22:00	11.6

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Keshet's long hot summer

By HELEN KAYE

Dennis (The Singing Detective) Potter's two last miniseries; a 20-part exploration of Israeli sexuality; a super game-show and two new sitcoms are among the 11 new shows of Keshet's Hot Summer prime-time lineup on Channel 2 which starts June 15.

Marvelous British actor Albert Finney stars in both the miniseries. *Cold Lazarus* is set in 2368 CE and is the story of Daniel Steel, frozen in the 20th century and revived in the 24th. Potter was working on the other, *Karaoke*, until a few days before he died of liver cancer. The story is about a screenwriter (Finney) who is convinced that his characters become alive, and who discovers he has liver cancer.

Veteran broadcaster Yaron London conceived, researched, started in and presents *Crowd Poetics* (title taken from a poem by Verlaine). The series is a "glove-off, honest, unsalacious look at Israeli sexuality," he says. The half-hour-long films' subjects include sexual humor, institutionalized prostitution, sexual fantasies, youth and sex education, sex and Judaism, to name just a few. They will screen at 11 p.m. on Wednesdays.

In honor of 100 years of Zionism, says its host Erez Tal, the Giant Wheel game-show quiz will deal entirely with Israel, its history, geography, development and so forth. The first program is devoted to Israeli cinema, which has its own small-screen celebration because Keshet has acquired screening rights for 21 local films.

The new sitcoms are *Caroline*, described as a sort of female *Seinfeld* and starring Lia



Clockwise from top left: 'Caroline,' a new sitcom in the style of 'Seinfeld'; 'Spin City,' a political satire; 'Cracker' star Robby Coltrane and Osnat Hakim in 'Hafuch.'

Thompson, and Michael J. Fox of *Back to the Future* fame who's Michael Flaherty, New York's deputy mayor in *Spin City*, a political satire from Steven Spielberg's Dream Works company.

US TV giants discovered that reruns in the summer hurt ratings in the fall, so Keshet decided to follow in the footsteps of CBS, ABC et al., and launch its own summer season for the second year in a row. Not that it has anything to worry about, because Keshet, broadcasting on

Sundays and Wednesdays, leads the prime-time ratings game by three and four percentage points over Reshet and Tel-Ad respectively, with an average of 27.6 percent. Most of that is due to entertainer Dudu Topaz, whose Sunday night

show garners a 35 percent audience share, followed by Rafi Reshet with an average rating of 30 percent. "Not that the name of the game is ratings," said general manager Uri Shinar virtuously, "but good TV 365 days a year."

MOVIE REVIEW

Women on the verge

By ADINA HOFFMAN

A cheerfully commercial comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg as a high-powered financial analyst who rams her black, female head through Wall Street's glass ceiling. *The Associate* is much more peculiar than it looks at first glance.

Directed in bouncy, sit-com fashion by Donald (Mystic Pizza)

THE ASSOCIATE

Directed by Donald Petrie. Screenplay by Nick Thiel. Adapted from the novel *El Socio* by Jenaro Prieto. Hebrew title: *Shufi Samai*. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.

With Whoopi Goldberg, Dianne West, Tim Daly, Bebe Neuwirth and Eli Wallach

Petrie, the film initially seems a sort of *Nineties 9 to 5*, with Whoopi promoted from the role of avenging secretary to hard-working, under-

appreciated businesswoman. No matter how many extra hours Laurel Ayres puts in at the office, clients prefer to seal deals man-to-man, on the golf course or at a topless bar. When she's passed over for an important promotion - which goes to a guy whom she herself trained (Tim Daly) - Laurel quits and resolves to open her own firm.

Not surprisingly, she meets with the same unspoken resistance everywhere she turns. Although it's clear that she's smart and capable, no one is ready to trust her with investments. Political correctness, Nick Thiel's script implies, has made these men's club members self-conscious (when they tell her they're not interested, they always blame an invisible partner), but it hasn't changed the basic chauvinism at play.

Soon Laurel wises up and decides to use this pass-the-buck policy to her own advantage: she, too, creates a fictional partner for herself, one Robert S. Cutty, a mysterious globe-trotter-of-a-white-male, whose very physical absence creates a stir on Wall Street. The firm's business soars, he gets the credit, and Laurel

watches ruefully from the shadows as her make-believe sidekick becomes the talk of the town.

The Associate has, as I said, all the trappings of slick TV comedy: a perky soundtrack, crisp punchlines, cast of cartoonish supporting players and an inevitable, overlong descent into broadly played physical farce (the movie features both female- and male-impersonators). But beneath the familiar, superficial clowning, the film also strikes a deep chord of unease.

Whoopi Goldberg's performance is so dry, unflustered and quietly knowing, it knocks a serious hole through the script's jokey surface. This may be funny, but it's for real, she seems to be saying - no kidding. And in this respect the movie succeeds where other comic-book-feminist films don't.

If anything, the ditsy mugging and "adorable" cat fights of a *Working Girl* or a *First Wives Club* undermine any mildly relevant social message those pictures might have carried. The women in such movies may demand equal opportunity, but they carry on just like little girls - shrieking and giggling and



Goldberg imbues this feminist comedy with serious overtones.

pulling each other's hair - and in this warped way confirm a whole complex of sexist attitudes. Thanks to Goldberg's sober demeanor, and to a plumped-up Dianne West, who gives a sweetly serious performance as her secretary, *The Associate* feels closer to actual life.

The much more loaded issue of Goldberg's blackness, meanwhile, goes completely, bizarrely unmentioned in the movie. She's excluded from the business world's inner circles, according to the script, just because she's female. Whoopi's presence, though, is so emphatically African-American, from her cornrows to her colorful headresses to her tough delivery, we can't not consider the film's racial undertones - and it's clear that she wants us to. *The Associate*, then, is unusual for a neatly packaged Hollywood satire: it shows us much more than it tells.

Leading operatic star set for Israel debut

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The doorbell is ringing at Dmitri Hvorostovsky's London home. He excuses himself and returns after a minute or so. "These big Victorian houses; it takes forever to get from one place to another," he apologizes as he resumes this phone interview.

The famous Russian baritone, one of the leading operatic superstars of our generation, has been living in London for the past four years, using the English capital as a point of departure to the world's leading opera houses and concert halls. And he will be making his Israeli debut next week at the Israel Festival, performing a solo recital evening and singing another program of sacred Russian music with the St. Petersburg Chamber Choir.

Why did he chose London when he moved to the West? "I've kind of forgotten. Probably because it has a great location. Also, I have many friends here and the musical life is great. This city has a great history and great architecture. It's the European capital of culture. I had to choose a place, and I chose London."

Hvorostovsky grew up in Siberia. In 1991 he left his hometown and moved to Moscow. Since then he has been traveling perpetually. And although he no longer lives in Russia, Hvorostovsky adamantly argues that he will never give up the apartment "I received from the Russian government. After all, I often return to Russia."

In contrast to many singers who try to specialize in a certain genre or a very specific aspect of the art form, Hvorostovsky tries to do it all, and he appears regularly in both operas and recitals. "I'm a Libera-



Dmitri Hvorostovsky: 'You have to work on your image when you are considered a star.'

and it's in my character. I always studied both genres. I know many singers today have to make a choice, but I manage to keep a good balance. And I know I'm quite privileged to have this choice in my professional life."

The average baritone role, Hvorostovsky suggests, is the "evil man or the betrayed father." One role he has been singing for many years is the nonchalant, aloof and heartless lead in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*. "After three years I gave it up. I got frustrated with the story and decided to stay away from it for a while." Recently, his calling-card role has been the much more comic barber Figaro, in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*.

"It's the best role for me to show off what I can do. There are lots of things to do on the stage aside from singing, it's a role that demands lots of music and I love it. I enjoy music and acting alike, and this

role is ideal." That said, the 34-year-old baritone argues that "by doing opera, you lose the purity of the voice. In recitals you can have much greater flexibility."

He paces his operatic career very carefully, without rushing anywhere and without damaging his voice. "I am very careful not to sing very dramatic parts like Rigoletto. I can wait a little bit (for such parts), I don't feel any big rush. My career is very busy anyway."

When Hvorostovsky is at home, he devotes most of his time to his 10-month-old twins. "At home I belong to my children, so there is literally no time for any hobby or anything like that."

For the last two years, Hvorostovsky has had his own press agent. "You have to work on your image when you are considered a star. I feel this is the right time to be brought to the media. I do a lot of talk shows and photo sessions and everything that's needed." And he adds that the most important thing for him today is "to help people know classical music more, especially younger audiences in the US. For that, they have to know you and believe you are a star. If younger audiences do not begin to enjoy classical music, we will pay nothing for that in the 21st century."

Dmitri Hvorostovsky sings a recital of music by Tchaikovsky and Mahler, and Sviridov's song cycle *Russia Cast Adrift* on June 3 at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem. On June 1, at the same locale, he joins the St. Petersburg Chamber choir to sing sacred Russian music.

NEWS

of the muse

Controversial play set to go

Beit Lessin's production of Matti Golan's docudrama *Arufel* ("Fog"), which traces the investigation into a fatal accident at a training base called Ge'ulim, started rehearsals last week. It stars Oded Teomi as chief of staff Avner Sela, and is based on the 1992 incident at the Tze'elim base in which six soldiers were killed and seven injured by a missile fired during a training exercise.

Ehud Barak was chief of staff at the time and the Barak camp has alleged that the substance and timing of the play are politically motivated in order to discredit Barak, who is running for leadership of the Labor Party. Beit Lessin says that the allegations are nonsense. The play will open July 6, after the elections are over. *Helen Kaye*

Gesher reaps glory

The Gesher Theater has been getting ecstatic reviews in the UK. Yehoshua Sobol's *Kfar*, directed by Yevgeny Arye, opened its UK tour at the Brighton Festival on May 6 to unanimous acclaim. Gesher is currently in Manchester, after equally successful SRO performances in Cambridge and Newcastle. It will end at the Lyric Hammersmith in London from June 3 to 7 as a centerpiece of the prestigious LINK Festival. *Kfar* won the 1996 Israel Theater Prize for Best Production. *Helen Kaye*

Here come de judge

Actress Gila Almagor will be one of the judges at the Montpellier Film Festival in France this October. The festival will also feature a retrospective of her many films, including the multi-award-winning autobiographical film *Avia's Summer*, in which she starred and for which she wrote the screenplay. *Helen Kaye*

Channel 1's Bond season

Licensed to thrill local audiences, Channel 1 will be showing all James Bond films this summer, from 1962's *Dr. No*, in which Bond (Sean Connery) was sent to Jamaica to confront a villain hell-bent on world domination, through to the most recent *Goldeneye*. About 20 cinematic classics, among them *From Russia with Love* (1963), *Goldfinger* (1964), *You Only Live Twice* (1967), *Diamonds are Forever* (1971), *Live and Let Die* (1973), *The Man with the Golden Gun* (1974), *The Spy who Loved Me* (1977), *Never Say Never Again* (1983) and *License to Kill* (1989) are in the line-up. Viewers may be shaken, but not stirred, by this summer celebration in which the specific contributions to the development of the 007 character will be seen as Sean Connery, George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton and Pierce Brosnan all play back to back.

Meanwhile, through the summer, Brosnan will continue filming the next 007, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, due to premiere in September and co-starring Asian star Michelle Yeoh and, allegedly, Terri Hatcher, Lois Lane from TV's *Lois and Clark*. *Daniel J. Chafetz*



Pierce Brosnan in 'Goldeneye'

Chat with Roseanne

Roseanne is joining Oprah and Rosie as a talk-show host formidable enough to be known only by her first name.

The blue-collar queen of primetime comedy announced last week that she is joining the daytime talk sweepstakes. She signed a deal with the syndicators King World to begin producing a five-day-a-week talk show in the fall of 1998.

The Kings, who both run King World, said Roseanne is "the biggest star in the history of television to go from a prime-time series to daytime TV." Two talk-show experts predicted there would be keen interest in Roseanne's show but said the star's abrasive personality could cause problems. But Roseanne cautioned people not to expect her sitcom character behind the desk of a talk show. *AP*

Mouseketeers want Disney dough

Those once adorable, now 50-something, Mouseketeers want Walt Disney Pictures and Television to pay them residuals and royalties for reusing the original *The Mickey Mouse Club* shows.

The Screen Actors Guild contends Disney hasn't paid residuals, clip-reuse fees or merchandising royalties even though the shows are used in TV specials, movies, videos, records and theme-park attractions. *The Mickey Mouse Club* shows ran from 1955 to 1959. "It's been a real privilege to be a Mouseketeer, but fair is fair. I would never want to do anything to damage my relationship with Disney, but if they benefited from us they should be willing to compensate us." Karen Pendleton said.

The claim doesn't seek a specific dollar amount, but unidentified sources told the *Hollywood Reporter* it could easily top \$100 million. Disney had no comment on the grievance. Spokesman Ken Green would only say, "We've always had very good relationships with our Mouseketeers." *AP*



NEXT festival organizer and rocker Rami Fortis feels that "we need to recognize and promote young talent."

What's NEXT?

By HELEN KAYE

This year, the NEXT Music Festival organizers have donned the crusaders' mantle.

"We need to recognize and promote the young talent sprouting in community centers all over the country," said NEXT Festival organizer and rocker Rami Fortis last week. "The musical establishment needs to bring in contemporary culture from the fringes."

This year's NEXT takes place at Suzanne Dellal from June 12 to 14 and features nearly all home-grown talent in a program of concerts, lectures and symposia which, like last year, aim to provide a stage for music and music makers. The only foreign guests are Peter Principle, Steven Brown and Blaine Reininger of Tuxedo Moon, making their first appearance together after a long separation.

At bottom, this is off-the-wall music in the sense that it's a hybrid - a mix of musical styles, technologies and other disciplines. Last year, NEXT was billed as an alternative rock festival, a label this

year's festival conspicuously avoids.

There is alternative music from the likes of Zuvim, a winsome quartet which gives an anarchic twist to music that Woodstock would have loved, Rogel Alper, who is self-billed as a "young psychopath" and the Sadranei Hadeses combo playing oriental punk.

Fortis has sweet bands like Habreira Hativit and the East-West Band under the ethnic NEXT umbrella, spicing that with the amazing Victoria Hanna, a young ex-pat Israeli who sings like a Balkan choir.

NEXT's centerpiece is called *Man, You're My Girlfriend*, with Eran Zur presenting Yona Wallach's poems set to music from *Good Harvest*, the early Eighties album by Shimon Gelbeiz and Ilan Wirtzberg, to those in the recent play *Yona Yona*.

Altogether there are 24 different concerts. The seminar end of NEXT embraces 26 lectures, panels and meetings on subjects ranging from "Royalties and the Internet" to "Computer-aided multi-track recording."

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A burning issue

An Israeli flag is tossed onto the flames, while onlookers cheer. No, this is not a description of a gory Hamas protest, or a "spontaneous" demonstration in Iran: the disgusting scene pictured in yesterday's newspapers was of haredi teenagers at a Lag Ba'omer bonfire in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim. Though it may be an act of youthful extremism, the burning of a flag is shocking precisely because of what it symbolizes - not a protest against any particular policy, but against the existence of the state itself.

This incident, and the recent pictures of haredim defiantly walking during the sounding of sirens on Remembrance Day, as all of Israel stood silently in honor to our fallen soldiers, feeds into existing stereotypes of haredim. The yawning gap between the growing haredi minority and the secular majority is not only widening, but becoming suffused with increasing bitterness.

In the case of other gaps in society - such as between Ashkenazim and Sephardim, or rich and poor, or even between secular and non-haredi religious - there are serious challenges to be overcome; but the connections and forces needed to heal the divisions exist and can be built upon. In the case of haredim and the rest of society, almost no bridges exist and there is little desire to build them in either camp.

To make matters worse, both sides seem to revel in demonizing the other.

Secular society, including the media, tends to look for whatever it can to reinforce the division. Flag burning and other sensational acts are rightly focused upon and condemned. At the same time, however, the respectful observances of Independence Day in mainstream haredi yeshivas are passed over without notice.

At Neveh Yerushalayim, a haredi girls' school in Har Nof, the school was decorated with national flags and the day was spent in lectures about the importance of the state to the Jewish people. In the haredi perspective, this was an exercise in "recognition of the good," the Jewish requirement to show gratitude when it is warranted.

The haredim have much to be grateful for. In Israel, as they themselves point out, more people are learning Torah than at any time since the Second Temple stood.

Haredi institutions receive substantial government support, and the army protects them as it does all Israelis. Some haredim say that if Independence Day were celebrated on Lag Ba'omer, and not a few weeks earlier during a period of semi-mourning for Orthodox Jews,

haredim could join with the rest of Israel in celebrating the state.

But whatever gratitude exists in the haredi community for the state is, to put it mildly, not being effectively communicated. When extreme elements send the opposite message, such as the haredim on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan who stoned policemen during the siren of mourning, a delegation of rabbis met with President Ezer Weizman to apologize the next day. Such gestures are welcome and necessary, but not enough.

The heart of the problem is the fact that so many haredim do not serve in the military. Nothing symbolizes more the isolation of the haredim from the rest of society, and the sense of betrayal that most Israelis feel at haredi disdain for the state. Until this issue at the core of haredi conflict with society - which David Ben-Gurion created as a compromise with the haredim upon the founding of the state - is addressed, few gestures of reconciliation will make much difference.

The existence and success of frameworks that combine yeshiva study with army service indicate that the two are not in conflict. For the few who, for whatever reason, do not fit into such frameworks, an alternative form of national service should be devised.

Before the yeshiva exemption can be addressed, however, there has to be a basic will to begin breaking down the psychological wall that both sides have painstakingly erected for their own purposes.

The haredim have found it convenient to paint a caricature of the outside world as rotten with decadence, materialism, and social pathologies; much like the way the Soviet Union portrayed the West and for the same reasons - to keep people in. Secular Israelis have also found it convenient to define their own identity as modern, open-minded, citizens of the world, in contrast with living remnants of the Jews of the shtetl.

The secular stereotype of haredim as, on the one hand, ungrateful and parasitic, and on the other as representing "true" Judaism, combines to do tremendous damage to the image of Judaism in, of all places, the Jewish state. It need not be so. Imagine if, next Lag Ba'omer, haredim were dancing in the streets with Israeli flags instead of burning them. Haredim can be true to themselves and start breaking down the wall around them. Secular Israelis, for their part, must not let their open-mindedness end when it comes to the haredim, and be ready to reciprocate if the haredim make an effort.

Mind & matter

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

Several days ago, I needed a private ambulance for my mother. As we got in, the driver was playing a cassette which featured a rabbi talking about the reincarnation of the souls of children who had died. The rabbi went into the sins the parents had committed, which, he said, were the reason for their children's premature deaths.

After several minutes of this, I asked the driver if he would switch it off, adding that, in my

I braced myself, thinking fast. How to answer without seeming offensive?

"First of all," I said after a pause, "nobody is forcing you to believe anything you don't want to believe. You don't have to accept Darwin's theories if you don't want to. But to close your mind, to refuse to ask questions - worst of all, to force the same attitude on your daughter - is no answer, certainly not if you want to give her a chance to achieve more in life than you have."

I then asked him whether he had ever visited a museum of natural history. No, he said. "And what do you think about the dinosaurs; are they nothing to you but mythological dragons?" To this I got no reply.

At this point we reached our destination. I thus had no opportunity to add that I know many religious people who have sought an acceptable solution to the apparent contradiction between the Creation story as told in the Bible and modern theories on how the earth came about - and have apparently found it.

I would have ended by suggesting that removing books from one's shelves was the wrong way.

I RECALLED this disturbing conversation last Friday, when both TV's weekly newsmagazine on Channel 1 and the talk show that followed it featured a new extra-parliamentary grouping called the Eastern Democratic Spectrum (*Hakshet Hademokratit Hamizrahit*).

This group of highly attractive, but angry, mostly North African and Middle-Eastern Jewish intellectuals is seeking a viable alternative to the cul-de-sac offered Israel's non-Ashkenazi population by Shas.

What most disturbs the mem-

Dry Bones



bers of this truly socialist secular group, besides the ongoing institutional discrimination against the weaker parts of this population, is precisely those lingering manifestations of cultural and intellectual backwardness - which Shas seems bent on preserving for its own benefit.

I do not know, and it doesn't really matter, whether I left any sort of impression on that young ambulance driver.

But what does worry me is whether the Eastern Democratic Spectrum can get through to people like him, speak to them in a language they can understand, and offer them an identity which, while preserving their cultural roots, will enable them to enter the 21st century with hope for a

better future. I feel the same kind of concern when I think of Professor Shlomo Ben-Ami, the only non-Ashkenazi aspirant to the Labor Party leadership, and the only one among the four contenders with a complete socio-economic worldview and a more than passing understanding of the great long-term danger Shas poses to those it ostensibly seeks to benefit.

Can a member of the Eastern Democratic Spectrum, someone who quotes Brecht rather than the Rambam, or Ben-Ami, who openly admits to being a European at heart and an Anglophile to boot, compete successfully with Shas? I have my doubts.

The writer is a political scientist.

'The problem,' the young man said, 'is that I don't believe my forefathers were apes'

opinion, it had about as much to do with Judaism as South Pacific paganism. I added that if this was the "solace" some rabbis had to offer parents who had lost their children, Judaism was really in a bad way.

The driver, a charming young man of Moroccan origin, apologized, explaining that such cassettes were being distributed free in certain Jerusalem neighborhoods.

He then went on to ask if he could tell me something that was on his mind. When I nodded, he told me that he had recently bought his little daughter a set of the children's *Aviv Encyclopedia*, but that he wasn't sure whether he should let her read it.

"What's the problem?" I asked, adding a few words of praise for an encyclopedia I had bought my own children almost 20 years ago. "The problem is that I don't believe my forefathers were apes," he answered.

Scrub and polish with a purpose

DAVID NEWMAN

The campus is full of activity, and it isn't just the students on their way to the lecture halls and the cafeterias. This is a different kind of bustle, and you only see it once a year.

The lawns are being mowed, the walls and floors are being scrubbed, new signs are being erected - even the nearly-inaccessible light fittings are losing their year-long accumulation of desert sand and bird droppings.

Spring cleaning? It seems a bit late for that. After all, Pessah has come and gone. But this annual cleanup is being repeated on all university campuses throughout the country.

The universities are getting ready to greet the members of their respective boards of governors. These converge from the four corners of the globe for their annual meeting, during which they will determine university policy, award and receive honorary doctorates, and, above all else, raise funds for new buildings and programs.

Fund-raising for Israeli institutions has become a highly competitive and professional business. The number of Israeli institutions, not just universities, competing for funds among a limited, perhaps decreasing, number of potential donors has reached an all-time high.

One has only to scan the events column of the local Jewish newspapers in any major metropolis to see the extent to which Israel's universities, hospitals and day care centers compete with each

other - a dinner here, a lecture there, a film preview on the following night - each attempting to raise public awareness of its work and attract that extra donation.

In recent years competition has become even tighter as Diaspora community leaders also demand their share of funding for local cultural and educational projects. The long-term survival of Jewish education and cultural identity has

benefited from any particular donation.

As long as money flowed toward national projects such as bringing Ethiopian and Russian Jews to Israel and absorbing them, there was no problem. But in many instances, resources were allocated to projects perceived as being linked to political and/or sectoral interests.

As a result of this criticism, in

Giving directly to Israeli institutions is a far more efficient form of fund-raising

finally been recognized as being as important, if not more so, than channeling all financial resources solely to Israel.

The Jewish Agency, Keren Hayesod and the UIA/JIA have lately begun taking note of recent trends in the world of fund-raising.

For years, these quasi-government organizations were perhaps best known for their inefficient methods in soliciting donations. A large percentage of the funds amassed never even found its way to Israel, but got tangled up in the notorious red tape of organizational bureaucracy; in many cases, it went toward paying the fees of the professional fund-raisers.

A MAJOR criticism leveled at the Jewish Agency was that it was never quite clear which projects

benefited from any particular donation.

The problem of sectoral funding has come to the fore again as a result of the government's attempts to introduce the conversion bill.

Members of the Conservative and Reform movements are becoming more vociferous in their opposition to donations being used for projects with which they do not identify, often within the religious sector.

Should the government go ahead with passage of the conversion bill, it is possible that members of these movements will cease donating to Israel altogether, or, alternatively, bypass the Jewish Agency

and earmark specific institutions and projects in Israel with which they more closely identify.

There is a clear sense of pride when a donor can identify with a specific project, which may often bear his or her name prominently.

The names on the entrances to the university faculties, assiduously polished and gleaming in the sun to the annual gathering, represent a cross-section of world Jewry.

Many may see today's fund-raising for Israel as no more than a contemporary manifestation of the "Salah Shabbati syndrome" whereby donors are given less-than-clear impressions of the use their money has been put to. There is, therefore, a lot to be said for a system of annual board of governors meetings in which donors can monitor the destination of their contributions.

We welcome with open arms (or is it hands?) the return of our annual visitors and benefactors. We hope to see them back again next year... and the year after... and the year after.

We, the faculty members of Israel's universities - not least this writer - hope to benefit from the new buildings and projects that result from this year's meetings; and, it goes without saying, from the next few weeks, during which we can all enjoy a gleaming, freshened-up campus.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LEFT-WING ZIONISTS

Sir, - Trudy Gefen's venomous letter of April 29 demands a reply. Netanyahu's victory was far from a "landslide," not even when one ignores the Arab Israelis' vote. Every democratic opposition in the world has the right, even the duty from its point of view, to try to topple the government if it is convinced that its regime is totally incompetent. Ours, by its own destructive actions, has turned not only foreign media against Israel, but formerly friendly leaders and people, including Diaspora Jewry. Mr. Netanyahu needed no help to "delegitimize and demonize" himself and his government; he did that virtually alone.

The Israeli parliamentary opposition represents nearly 50 percent of our population, and not, as Ms. Gefen would have it, a small group of "left-wing zealots." Most of us are just as Zionist and "nationalistic" as voters for right-wing parties (and infinitely more so than those haredim who deny the right of Israel to exist). The difference is that we are aware we don't live in a vacuum, and that in our own interest we should refrain from making the whole world our enemy. Does Ms. Gefen truly believe we are strong enough to manage entirely on our own?

CLAIRE LEEFSSMA

Yokne'am Illit.

DAY OF INFAMY

Sir, - As we watched the vicious demolition of the three houses in Yitzhar, it reminded us of the pictures we saw just the previous day on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. To see Jews attacking other Jews in such a way, in Israel, under a democratic right-wing government, made us ashamed.

If indeed the homes had to be removed, there are other ways to do it, without shattering glass over women and children. As supporters who worked for over three years to bring this government to power, we are doubly ashamed. Such abuse of power should never again be seen.

BERNICE AND MORTON BAUM

Ra'anana.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Sir, - As an individual who voted for Netanyahu because of his apparent dedication to "peace with security"; and as one who was moved by King Hussein's apparent sincere *shiva* visit to the families of the victims of the Naharayim massacre; and as a one-time admirer of Yossi Beilin's apparent devotion to peace, I am writing to declare "A plague on all of their political houses!"

After canceling the memorial service for those young, innocent victims, and after shunting Jordan on the same day for photo opportunities, it is absolutely clear that all of these political animals care only about one thing - political power.

TRUE ISLAM

Sir, - Hamas member Abdel-Aziz Rantisi said that "Islam does not permit giving up one inch of Palestine and states that Palestine belongs to the Moslems, belongs to the Palestinian people, not to the Jews." ("Hamas activist Rantisi vows to continue fight against Israel," April 25).

This may be true according to the Islam of Abdel-Aziz Rantisi, but it is not true according to the Islam of Mohammed. The Koran states that God gave the Land of Israel to the Jews and will restore them to it in the End of Days: "Then We [Allah] said to the Israelites: 'Dwell in the land. When the promise of the hereafter comes to be fulfilled, We shall assemble you all together.'" (Koran, sura 17, "Night Journey," verse 104).

Immediately preceding this verse, the Koran states what happened to Pharaoh for oppressing the Jews and preventing their return to the Land of Israel (Koran, sura 17, "Night Journey," verses 100-103). Abdel-Aziz Rantisi and his Hamas associates would do well to consider what Allah did to Pharaoh, "together with all who were with him."

ARYEH GALLIN, President, Root and Branch Association, Ltd.

Jerusalem.

SWISS NEUTRALITY

Sir, - Mr. Flavio Cotti, the Swiss foreign minister, writing on May 9, seeks to justify his country's policy during World War II by mentioning the "extremely difficult situation in which Switzerland found itself at that time."

But were not the German-occupied countries (and most certainly their Gypsy and Jewish residents) in an even more difficult situation? Even in unoccupied Britain, the position was quite desperate, yet nevertheless, to "survive and preserve its freedom and democracy" (Mr. Cotti's words), Switzerland chose neutrality whereas Britain chose to fight.

Switzerland had a choice. It could have fought. It had an efficient army trained to fight in freezing conditions and, with its secret mountain redoubts, it could have kept the Nazis busy for years.

So not only must Switzerland apologize for laundering Nazi gold, it must also apologize for not taking an active part in the war as did the Allies.

GORDON GOLDMAN

Tel Aviv.

Who make up 'Israel's fallen'?

ESTHER WACHSMAN

by terrorists.

BUT this is not a personal crusade. Nachshon was recognized and revered as a fallen soldier, as

fallen for the sake of their people and their homeland. All who have unwillingly sacrificed their lives in the heinous acts of our enemies are, by definition, the fallen of Israel. Together with their brothers-in-arms, they must receive their due.

All those who have unwillingly sacrificed their lives in the heinous acts of our enemies

were those killed at Beit Lid, or on Bus No. 18, or at Dizengoff Center - as long as they were in uniform.

Yet I cannot understand the difference between them and the "ordinary" citizens knifed in the street, killed in drive-by shootings, blown up on buses, or in shopping centers or cafes. They were killed by the enemies of Israel; they sacrificed their lives in the war of terror. Their lives are no less sanctified than those who wore uniforms.

To their families and loved ones - indeed, to all of the citizens of Israel - they lost their lives in acts of war. We remember them together with our heroes, with those who fell in other wars.

Day. It is not only the wearing of a uniform that defines the sanctity of life, that determines who has

POSTSCRIPTS

BEFORE YOU lick that envelope, check its origins.

Conservationist Mike Bugara has found a new use for elephant dung in Kenya - he recycles the droppings to make paper.

Bugara, inspired by the way ancient Egyptians made papyrus, collected the dung from farm fields raided by elephants. The dung was boiled and crushed with a mortar and pestle into a porridge-like consistency. The fibers were then rolled out and left to dry in the sun.

SCOTTISH ISLANDERS failed in a bid to buy their remote Hebridean home from its German owner.

But islanders on Eligg said they were still determined to raise the £2 million asking price and end what they said was years of misery at the hands of absentee landlords. The islanders had raised nearly £300,000 in an appeal and also won backing to get additional funding from Britain's National Lottery.

The writer's son Nachshon was killed by Hamas terrorists in 1994.

Bones
 HAS BECOME
 TO INCLUDE
 CERTAIN US
 RITUALS
 THE OFFICE
 IRANIAN STR
 CALENDAR
 NEXT LAB
 BA OMER
 THEY TOO
 WILL BE
 BURNING
 ISRAELI
 FLAGS.

Tiger Tales

Why Africa Can Thrive Like Asia

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

ONE of the great paradoxes of Africa is that its people are for the most part desperately poor while its land is extraordinarily rich. East Asia is the opposite: a region mostly poor in resources that over the last few decades has enjoyed the greatest economic boom in human history.

The area around this river port city in eastern Congo, the former Zaire, is a case in point: it is dilapidated and impoverished yet studded with diamonds, like a billionaire on Skid Row. Back in the 1950's, when this country and several others in Africa were at the same income level as South Korea while blessed with far more natural resources, it might have seemed reasonable that Africa would soon leave Asia in the dust.

Now South Korea has a per capita income of about \$10,000 a year, and Congo stands at \$150 per person. Narrowing the gap is a fundamental challenge for Congo's new leaders as they try to rebuild their country after the overthrow this month of the long-time Zairian dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko. And a vital first step, not only for this country but for others across Africa — and for big aid donors like the United States — is understanding why such yawning disparities have occurred.

A wave of new research into the contrast between Africa and East Asia is producing some surprising findings. The most striking and reassuring conclusion is that although East Asia enjoyed some significant cultural and historical advantages, its economic boom relied on factors that probably can be replicated elsewhere.

In a nutshell, the formula was an outward-oriented, market-based economic policy coupled with an emphasis on education and health care. Countries in other regions like Chile have followed the strategy with great success. Several African countries, led by Congo's neighbor Uganda, are trying to learn from the Asian experience and are enjoying their own Asian-style boom.

Encouraging Signs

Uganda, a beautiful, vividly green nation on the banks of Lake Victoria in East Africa, with vast herds of antelope that graze beside modern highways, now has one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. Yet it is simply at the crest of a wave of African countries experimenting with privatization and stock markets — there are 16 so far in Africa — and trying to prove that rapid economic growth is not a prerogative of East Asia alone.

"This is still in the early days, and we're not euphoric and jumping up and down, but we think that parts of Africa are moving in the right direction," said Alan H. Gelb, chief economist for Africa at the World Bank. "I think there are grounds for optimism."

At last count, four countries — Uganda, Angola, Lesotho and Malawi — were enjoying growth rates of 10 percent. That is about as fast as the peak growth rates for the Asian "tigers," Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and

South Korea.

"There's an emerging consensus that Africa is not hopeless, and that in fact there is an emerging renaissance going on in Africa," said Saïth Booker, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

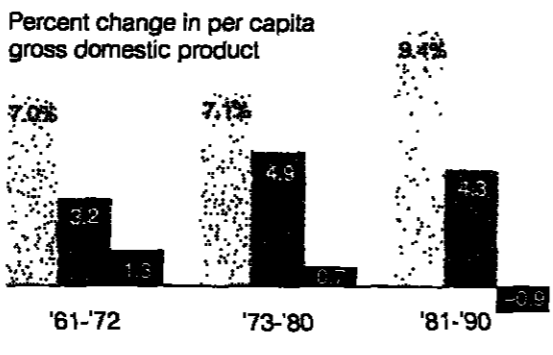
But to travel the back roads here and in Asia is to be reminded how many opportunities Africa missed over the last few decades, and how much it continues to mortgage its future by giving short shrift to education and health care. The new research suggests that a central feature of the successful East Asian model was a high level of education and public health — a level partly inherited from past centuries and partly nurtured in recent decades. Despite its own ancient educational traditions, Africa lags far behind in building this "human capital."

In the little village of Lala, in eastern Congo, the principal of the mud-brick elementary school throws up his hands at the challenges he faces educating the barefoot

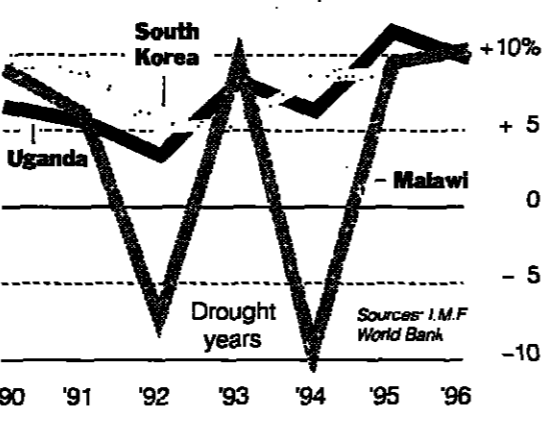
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While Africa Has Lagged Far Behind the Asian 'Tigers' in Economic Growth ...

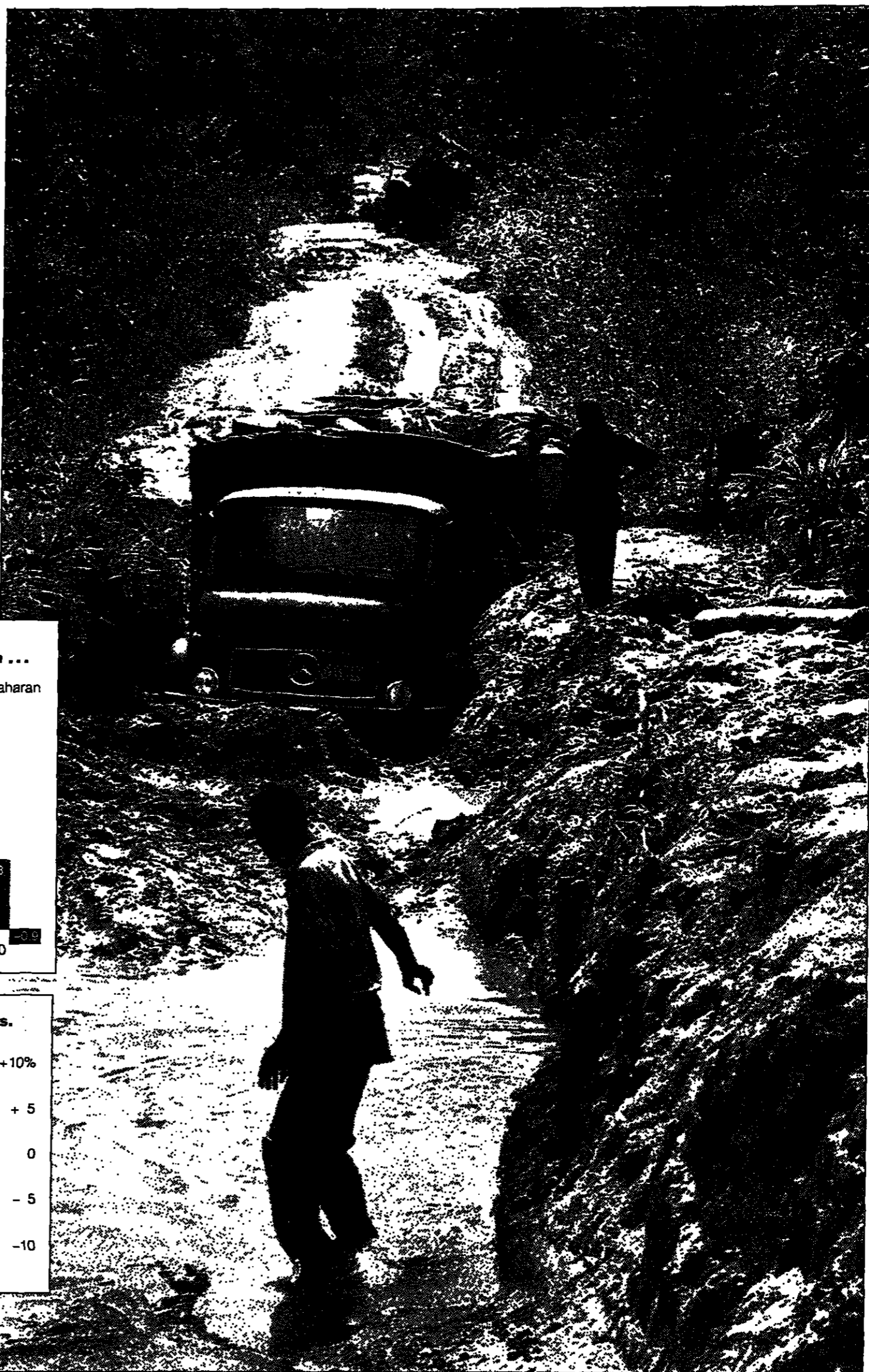
South Korea, Thailand, Sub-Saharan Africa, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan



... There Have Been Some Bright Spots.



New research suggests Africa's path to Asian-style success. This road in eastern Congo is not it.



Stephen Crowley/The New York Times

Victor/Victorious

At Appomattox in the Culture Wars

By JANNY SCOTT

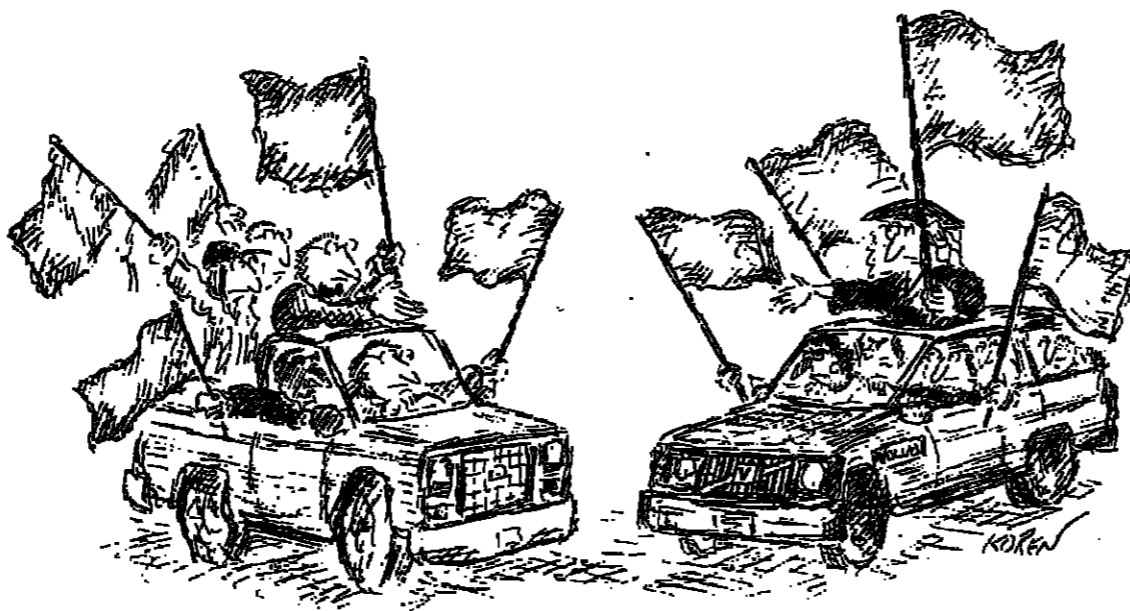
NOT long ago, one could hardly get through a week without stumbling across somebody or other's culture war — outraged fundamentalists or neoconservatives or righteous multiculturalists raving about Hollywood or political correctness or Robert Mapplethorpe or Allan Bloom.

All of a sudden, the phrase is beginning to seem out of date. "Culture war" is starting to sound a little like "leisure suit" — a throwback to a bygone era before the welfare reform act, before "Ellen," before old antagonists started acting so curiously mellow.

Now David Horowitz, conservative thorn in Hollywood's flank, invites Hollywood liberals out to breakfast at the Four Seasons with Robert H. Bork, and Ralph Reed is busy promoting repentance and racial reconciliation among his Christian Coalition co-religionists.

Talk of speech codes has died down. The ebionics flap blew over. It is getting harder and harder to pick a good fight. "We Are All Multiculturalists Now," Nathan Glazer titled his new book. A few culture warriors have declared the years of conflict over, at least for now.

Well, who won? That depends on which culture war you have in mind: traditionalist v. multiculturalist in academic life, orthodox v. progressive in religious and family life, the war



Ed Koken

over popular entertainment, the war over the media, the war over government financing of culture and the arts.

All of which are related wrangles over what Rhys H. Williams, a sociologist at Southern Illinois University and the editor of an upcoming book, "Cultural Wars in American Politics: Critical Reviews of a Popular Myth" (Aldine de Gruyter), calls "culture in the identity-giving sense." They are battles over the symbols and ideas by which American society defines itself.

Plenty of people on both sides make the case that the left has won — from the Village Voice to Herbert London, the con-

servative New York University professor who helped form the National Association of Scholars in 1987 to shore up the traditionalist position.

Richard Goldstein, in The Village Voice, inventoried his evidence of victory: porn videos, Gay Day at Disney World, "the cornucopia of abject degradation that is popular music." The left won, he said, because there is more money to be made off "a limitless assortment of life styles and identities" than off "a single, sanctioned set of family values."

Professor London, gloomy in defeat, harbors diminished expectations. All he asks now is one mainstream university

"that represents a traditional view of the academy," one newspaper with "a different editorial position," one museum unlike the Whitney, one movie studio making real family entertainment.

"I call it an oasis strategy," he said.

It is certainly true that in much of the culture, the image of America seems permanently changed. It will never again be monochromatic. P.C. or not, the accepted standards for representing gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability have irreversibly shifted.

Inside academia, where much of the conflict surfaced first, the defeat seems most clear cut. Despite scandalized traditionalists, changes in curricula have stuck. Though courts have struck down speech codes and race-based preferences in hiring and admissions, campus life has been transformed.

But the outside world is another story. To the public at large, academics are now suspect. "My sense is that the conservatives have the upper hand in the battle of ideas and the liberals have the upper hand in the battle of institutions," said Dinesh D'Souza, a conservative scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and author of "Illiberal Education" (Free Press, 1991), a best-selling denunciation of the academic left.

"In other words, the professors in the

Promises, Promises

What we have here is a failure to communicate.

By Michael R. Gordon

2

World Market

The lunacy and logic of global investing.

By Edward Wyatt

2

Holiday Treat

A peek at the gas station of the future.

By Agis Salpukis

4

Continued on Page 4

The World

The Anatomy of a Misunderstanding

By MICHAEL R. GORDON

THE date was Feb. 8, 1990. Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d was meeting privately with Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the Soviet Union, over the emotionally charged issue of German reunification.

Mr. Baker's goal was to keep Germany in NATO. It was a difficult sell, and he used all of his celebrated skills of persuasion. A neutral Germany, he warned ominously, would be free to develop nuclear weapons. Besides, he added, the West was prepared to offer Moscow an important assurance.

"There would be no extension of NATO's current jurisdiction eastward," Mr. Baker said, choosing his words with lawyerly precision.

More than seven years later, that meeting casts a shadow over Russia's dealings with NATO as the military alliance prepares to expand to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Evincing a bitter sense of betrayal, former and current Russian officials say the expansion flatly contradicts Mr. Baker's assurances.

"When we were told during the German reunification process that NATO would not expand, we believed it," Anatoly Adamishin, a former deputy foreign minister who is Russia's Ambassador to Britain, com-

plained to The Daily Telegraph. Nor are the Russians the only ones who say Washington switched signals.

Why Russia feels cheated by NATO. And why it still matters.

"When Gorbachev and others say that it is their understanding NATO expansion would not happen, there is a basis for it," Jack F. Matlock Jr., the United States Ambassador to Moscow at the time, said in a telephone interview.

The dispute made it all the more important, Russians say, to pin down the West's assurances in the new NATO-Russian

accord, named the Founding Act, which sets the terms for the alliance's expansion. It is to be signed in Paris on Tuesday.

But did the United States really pull a fast one on the Russians? And will the much heralded NATO-Russia accord put an end to the complaints of broken promises?

Philip Zelikow, a former National Security Council aide and co-author of "Germany Unified and Europe Transformed," a history of the diplomacy of German reunification, provided a surprising answer.

Mr. Zelikow said that close scrutiny of the verbal diplomatic exchange does not support Moscow's claim that it was bamboozled. But the new written agreement, he cautioned, may cause new disagreements because its commitments are already being interpreted differently by the two sides.

To unravel the debate, rewind the diplomatic tape to 1990. The Berlin Wall had fallen. The Soviet Union was intact. West Germany's leaders were eager to unify with East Germany.

Seeking to ease Soviet anxieties, West Germany's Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, urged the West to offer Moscow a major concession: If Germany reunified, there would be "no expansion of NATO territory eastward."

Mr. Genscher sold Secretary Baker on the idea, and Mr. Baker flew to Moscow that February to try it on Mr. Gorbachev. The Soviet leader was receptive, according to Mr. Zelikow's authoritative account:

"Any extension of the zone of NATO is unacceptable," Mr. Gorbachev stressed. "I agree," Mr. Baker responded.

That, however, was not the end. Almost immediately, the White House had second thoughts about the Genscher plan.

The concession would preclude NATO from stationing forces in the former East Germany, within the reunified Germany. That, aides at the National Security Council argued, was at cross purposes with NATO's obligation to defend its members' territory against a potential Soviet attack.

Before Mr. Baker had even left Moscow, the White House instructed him to pursue a different plan: All German territory would be in NATO. East German territory would not be demilitarized. But as a concession to Russia, only German forces would be stationed there. Mr. Gorbachev eventually agreed to the new arrangements.

But what of the broader issue of NATO expansion?

Mr. Matlock said the Russians have a point when they say Mr. Gorbachev received a blanket promise that NATO would



Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d quickly withdrew the United States' offer in 1990 not to station NATO troops further east, but he remained fishing buddies with Soviet leaders. Here he's with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

not expand. Mr. Baker, he said, never formally retracted the pledge that NATO's "jurisdiction" would not extend eastward. The arrangements on Germany were simply an exception to a more general rule.

Mr. Baker adamantly rejects this view. He said he never intended to rule out the admission of new NATO members. The proposal on NATO jurisdiction had applied only to territory of the former East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, and had been speedily withdrawn.

"I got off the word 'jurisdiction' very quickly," Mr. Baker said in a telephone interview. "I do not recall using it with the Soviets. But let's assume I did use it once or twice. We quickly walked away from it. What defeats this whole argument is that we then insisted on the G.D.R. being in NATO, thereby moving NATO eastward."

Mr. Zelikow sides with Mr. Baker. He says the United States went over the revised proposal on several later occasions and the Russians never complained. The diplomatic record also shows that the two sides never discussed the possibility of Poland, Hungary

or other Central European nations joining NATO. If the Soviets took Mr. Baker's pledge as ruling out the alliance's expansion, they failed to nail it down.

"No Soviet ever said, 'NATO may extend to East Germany but no farther,'" Mr. Zelikow added.

An Act of Compromise

The allegations of broken promises have colored the negotiations for a new NATO-Russia accord. Not wanting to give the Russians a veto over NATO policy, the United States took the position that the agreement should be a non-binding "charter." Eager to pin the West down, the Russians insisted on a formal, legal "agreement."

The compromise was the Founding Act, a legally non-binding agreement at the highest political level. It records the alliance's assurances not to deploy nuclear weapons or "substantial" numbers of foreign troops on the territory of its new members.

Playing to their public, American officials have stressed that the new accord merely

codifies NATO military plans, which the alliance is free to change. They say it gives Moscow a voice, but does not enable Russia to tie the West's hands.

But Russian officials have talked about the "binding character" of the agreement. They emphasize their expectation that important issues will be brought to a new NATO-Russian Council that will operate by consensus.

Defenders of the accord insist that Russian officials are not so much challenging the substance of the agreement as engaging in spin control to soothe public opinion and win approval by the Communist-dominated Parliament.

Critics say the agreement papers over deeper differences, which will come to haunt the diplomats. "There is enormous potential for misunderstanding," Mr. Zelikow said.

In the meantime, it appears that the public posturing over the new accord will go on. Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the Kremlin spokesman, warned last week that the conflicting interpretations of the accord will not end with its signing. Putting it into effect will not be easy, he said.

Global Investing's Logic, and Lunacy

The World's New Financier Is You

\$22.4 billion as of April '97

By EDWARD WYATT

INVESTORS flocked to Eastern Europe after the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, eager to scoop up bargains in what they were sure would be a quick economic revival. A year later, the technology boom drew their money to the Far East. Then Latin America beat up — that is, until the Mexican peso went bust, which sent investors scurrying back to the Pacific Rim. Russia got sexy as an investment early this year, and more recently South America has had allure.

Billions of dollars are sloshing back and forth over the globe with seemingly little rhyme or reason, chasing investments in once-obscure markets from Santiago to Kuala Lumpur. But there is at least some method to the madness — despite occasional debacles like the recent Bre-X gold mining fraud, in which mutual fund managers poured scads of money into what amounted to little more than holes in the ground in Borneo.

To begin with, foreign stock and bond markets are growing much faster than those in America, providing much higher returns to investors. In 1970, foreign markets accounted for only a third of the value of the world's stock and bond markets, with the United States alone accounting for the other two-thirds. But by last year, they had grown to nearly 60 percent of the total.

Stock markets in newly emerging economies like those of Turkey, Argentina and South Africa now account for 14 percent of the world's total stock market value, up from 4 percent 10 years ago.

Investors have flocked to them as global economic trends have shifted since the end of the cold war. Centralized, state-planned economies have been scuttled for ones favoring private ownership of industry. With the transformation, the resulting vibrant new economies no longer need to rely on international development agencies or giant New York banks for foreign investment, as they did in the 1970's and 1980's; instead, much of their seed capital since 1990 has come from a more surprising source: millions of average Americans who invest in mutual funds.

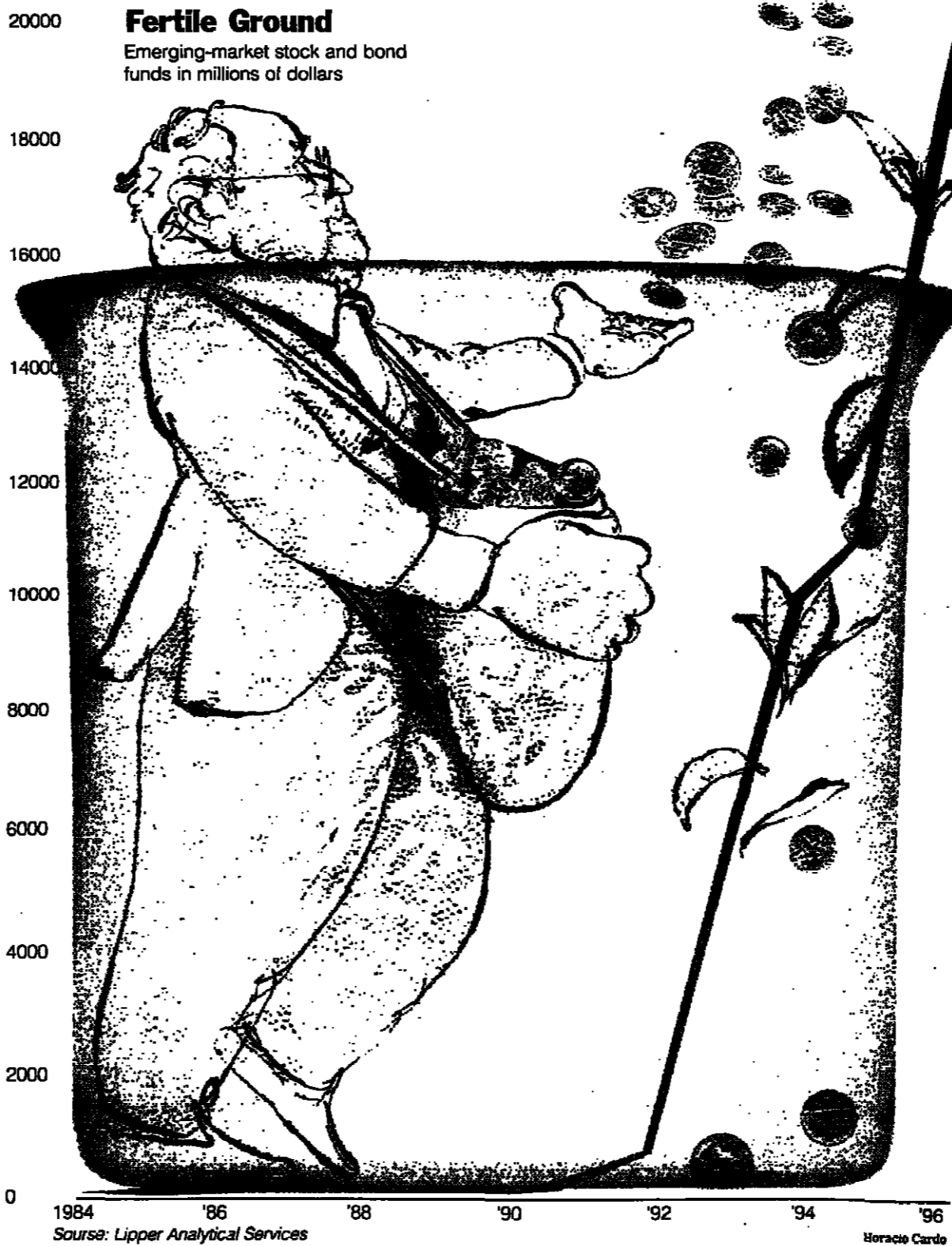
"This is a trend that has been led by America, which pushed the international lending agencies to encourage the development of private enterprise, to open up these markets and get the hands of governments out of industrial ownership," said J. Mark Mobius, who oversees several Templeton mutual funds that invest in emerging markets. "That led to the development of capital markets — bond markets and stock markets — in many of these countries, and now to people like me trying to invest all the money that is flowing into our mutual funds."

Cash Cows

That is no easy task. In the past five years, the assets of American mutual funds that invest in a broad array of emerging markets have grown more than 35-fold, to \$22 billion. One such fund existed before 1989; now there are more than 70. And billions more are being invested by funds that are even more specialized, focusing only on markets in, say, Latin America or Southeast Asia.

And these days, when the finance minister of a developing country wants to encourage foreigners to

Fertile Ground
Emerging-market stock and bond funds in millions of dollars



Source: Lipper Analytical Services

Horacio Cardo

invest in his country, he is less likely to court the World Bank or the Agency for International Development than someone like Mr. Mobius.

Mutual fund managers say their investments are sought because they have enormous flexibility in the types of projects they can underwrite. Coca-Cola can build a bottling plant in South America, or General Electric can build a factory in Eastern Europe, but those companies are less likely to use their profits to re-invest in other businesses, as mutual funds would.

For investors, emerging markets can provide eye-popping returns — as in 1993, when the average emerging-market mutual fund gained 72 percent. But they also can take gut-wrenching dives. In 1994, funds with a heavy dose of Latin American investments fell more than 24 percent after Mexico devalued the peso.

"There are going to be periods of time when many of the emerging markets do quite badly," said M. David Testa, chairman of Rowe-Price Fleming, the international investment arm of the T. Rowe Price mutual funds. "But on the whole, they tend to move fairly independently of each other. The politics of Turkey will have a great effect on the Turkish market but could have nothing to do with what is going on next door in Lebanon."

Volatility

Mutual funds, however, have contributed to that volatility as money managers simply chase the highest rate of return on their investments around the globe, often with disregard for underlying economic trends. "I think there is an element of faddishness and hype" in emerging-market investment, said Jeffrey E. Garten, dean of the Yale School of Management and author of a new book, "The Big Ten: The Big Emerging Markets and How They Will Change Our Lives" (Basic Books, 1997).

Too many investors, mutual fund managers included, "are making a naive assumption that the current level of development in these countries will continue in a straight, upward line," Mr. Garten said. "But emerging markets are a frontier and, like on any frontier, there will be surprises."

As economic reforms move from addressing budget and inflation issues to more political questions like labor policy and how to improve education, progress will be more difficult, Mr. Garten said. In addition, certain regions can be influenced by external factors.

Latin America, for instance, is highly susceptible to changes in interest rates in the United States. Asian economies are prone to overproduction in industries like automobiles or semiconductors, which causes prices to plunge. And Eastern Europe is very much at the mercy of developments in the European Union, which sees some of its neighbors as more of a competitive threat than an investment opportunity.

"No one can predict any of those things," Mr. Garten said. So while emerging markets have benefited from the enormous amounts of money that mutual funds have contributed, "the kind of investment these countries need the most is from the Coca-Colas and General Electrics of the world, the kind that is not susceptible to quick withdrawal" when the economic winds temporarily shift. "In the long term, there is cause for significant optimism in emerging markets," Mr. Garten said. "But there are going to be real crises along the way."

The World

Dead Men Don't Wear Bleeding Chennai

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

THINK for a minute about what Laurent Kabila has just done to Ralph Ehrenberg. Mr. Ehrenberg is in charge of 4.5 million maps at the Library of Congress, the largest map collection in the world. "Every time this happens," he said after Zaire became the Democratic Republic of the Congo, "we all have to go in there and re-catalogue and rearrange our collection."

It happens a lot. Not just in the heart of Africa, but in other exotic places like Alaska and Florida. In Asia, they have been on a rampage. Remember those bleeding Madras plaids? Good thing they are no longer in fashion, because Madras has become Chennai. Bombay is now Mumbai. In both places, local chauvinist politicians have chosen to erase their cities' international recognition for the sake of authenticity.

Oh, Burma! There a military dictatorship that would just as soon not be noticed tried to hide the whole country by renaming it Myanmar and its capital Yangon — neither of which are recognized by the Burmese democratic opposition led by Aung San Suu Kyi or by the United States Government.

"I say, save the old Burma Shave signs," said Saul Cohen, editor-in-chief of the next 6,000-page edition of the Columbia Gazetteer of the World, due in 1998. "This military junta isn't going to last forever."

Name changing has been going on "down through the history of humankind," said Alice Rechin, a geographer at the National Geographic Society. To the explorers and conquerors who rewrote maps, she said, add developers and mystics. In Marathon, Fla., developers decided to rename the place Marathon Key, for its cachet. Residents said no. Local resistance also slapped

down the campaign of a man in Alabama who decided that God wanted Mobile Bay to become the Bay of the Holy Spirit. Forget that he may have had Spanish colonial history on his side. The body of water in dispute was once known as La Bahía del Espíritu Santo.

But 1,200 place names are on the block nationwide after Minnesota bowed to Indian demands that anything called "squaw," which is considered a slur, be rewritten. Many states may have to redo their maps.

"Names are very emotional factors in our lives," said Richard R. Randall, a former executive secretary of the United States Board on Geographic Names, a century-old Federal Government panel that includes the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency.

A Spate of New Place Names

Names are also a serious security issue that disturbs the sleep of Government linguists, cartographers and toponymists, who specialize in geographic names, when, for example, China renames everything for the sake of better transliteration or the Soviet Union falls apart, spinning off new nations and altering the names of towns and natural features.

No nation can have its sailors floating around in the wrong water or its military focusing on the province next to the one in trouble. As for intelligence agents, Dr. Randall said, "They are up the creek if they don't know what creek they are up."

Mary Lynne Bird, executive director of the American Geographical Society in New York City, said that name changes, the prerogative of victors, are unsettling to those living in the neighborhood. "I certainly wondered whether this name change in the Congo suggests any kind of aspirations on the part of Mr. Kabila to take over the other Congo next door," she said.



Tom Bloom

The conflict in central Africa only reminds geographers how many names have changed on that continent since the first burst of postwar post-colonial names.

"I did a very quick count of the Zimbabwe entries in the new Gazetteer," Mr. Cohen said. "About 10 percent of the names have changed. In Zambia, it's even higher. It looks like 20-plus percent."

More than than decolonization has happened since the Gazetteer's last edition in 1952. Urbanization, for example, has changed the face of Japan, swallowing 2,500 rural villages (and their names).

People change place names for all kinds of purposes, said Mr. Cohen: to eradicate the memories of revolutions, as in Biafra in Nigeria or Katanga in the former

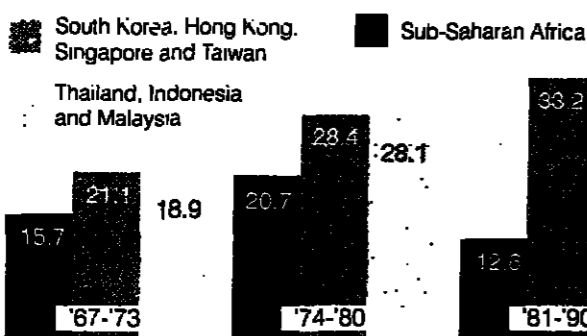
Zaire. North Tarrytown, N. Y., a working-class community that recently lost its General Motors plant, went in search of a new image to attract tourists and, thanks to Washington Irving, became Sleepy Hollow.

Mr. Cohen has a suggestion for Turkey, now precariously poised between East and West. "The ancient city of Byzantium was replaced by Constantine when he built the new capital of his Roman Empire in the East and called it Constantinople," he said. "The Turks captured the city in 1453 and did not eliminate the name Constantinople, but added Istanbul and used both. Ataturk officially changed it to Istanbul. Maybe now that Turkey is focused so much on joining the European Union, they should go back and reinvent Constantinople."

Asia and Africa: How They Compare

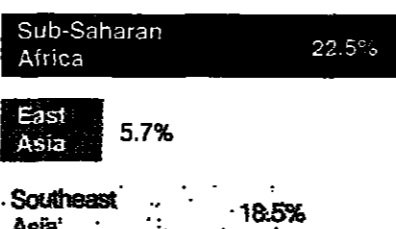
There are many reasons for the gap between Africa and Asia, including savings rates, ...

Savings as percent of gross domestic product, including government and private savings.



... higher tariffs in Africa, which discourage the import of raw materials needed for manufactured exports ...

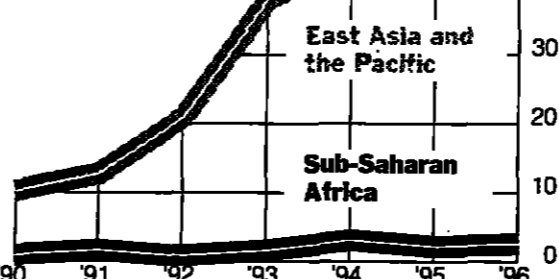
Tariff Rates, 1985



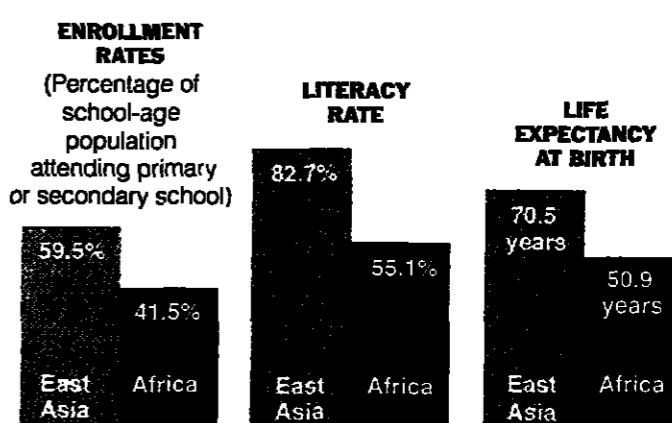
Sources: Asian Development Bank, World Bank (savings rates and foreign investment data)

... and a wide disparity in foreign investment to build factories and stimulate economic growth.

Direct foreign investment, in billions of dollars.



Health and education are also factors.



The New York Times

Why Africa Can Thrive Like Asia

Continued From Page 1

children who swarm around him.

"We have no notebooks and no teaching materials, and some teachers don't come because we cannot pay salaries," said the principal, Bibi Masakama, an energetic 32-year-old, as he showed a visitor around the school. The mud walls leaned ominously, and light came from holes in the walls that functioned as windows. Lizards ran about on the walls and on the rough wooden planks that served as desks and benches.

"None of these kids has ever been vaccinated against any disease," Mr. Masakama added. "None has ever had a medical examination."

Many reasons have been cited over the years for the different economic trajectories of Africa and East Asia. Some said that the colonial burden on Africa was much heavier, or that Africa was troubled more by artificial boundaries and disparate tribes and languages. Others, including some Africans, pointed to climate or culture.

"In Africa the climate is such that there's always fruit around, in back of the house, and you just reach up and pick it when you're hungry," said Alauwa Lobela, the mayor of Kisangani. "But in Europe and Asia, the climate forced people to get food, to protect themselves from the cold in the winter, to develop a spirit of battle."

Such climate-based explanations are common, and analysts have found that the economies of tropical countries do indeed grow a bit more slowly than those of temperate countries, all other things being equal. But the statistical relationship is slight, and one study suggested that climate explains only one-twentieth of the difference in economic performance between Africa and East Asia since 1965.

Of course, East Asia includes North Korea, healthy and well-educated but an economic disaster area facing famine, while Africa includes countries like Botswana that have prospered over the years. But regionally per capita incomes grew about 11 times faster in East Asia than in sub-Saharan Africa in the years since 1965.

Educated and Healthy

Why? Economists point to a conjunction of factors associated with rapid growth: places like Japan, China, Taiwan and South Korea underwent land redistribution after World War II and became relatively egalitarian societies; they were relatively well-educated and healthy, and they experienced a sharp drop in birth rates. On top of that, economic policies were ideal: the East Asian countries sooner or later adopted relatively open, market-oriented policies emphasizing exports. East Asian countries pursued various economic models, but there was also a common

economic strategy, which countries like Uganda are now emulating. The strategy emphasizes fiscal prudence and avoiding inflation while vigorously promoting exports and keeping the currency undervalued. In the past, African countries often tolerated soaring inflation and overvalued their currencies, keeping exports uncompetitive on world markets.

The Socialist Path

A central issue was politics: many African countries flirted with socialism and an anti-capitalist brand of nationalism that was in fashion during the cold war. In East Asia, the most successful countries avoided socialism and, in the case of South Korea and Taiwan, flirted with fascism. Even China since 1980 has arguably been closer to fascism than Communism, not so much Marxist-Leninist as market-Leninist.

Another crucial factor has been savings, which are needed to finance new factories and other investments that stimulate economic growth. Partly because of market incentives and government dictates, national savings rates have been much higher in Asia (more than 30 percent of gross domestic product) than in Africa (about 12 percent).

"Our problem is that we don't save," lamented Samuel Ndombe, a British-educated professor at the University of Kisangani in Congo. "When people get a bit of money, they just spend it to buy a beer."

That might change, though, were there more incentives for investment. There is nothing intrinsically Asian about high savings, for Japan had very low savings rates in the 19th century. They soared in part because of Government campaigns and the spread of deposit-taking institutions, and eventually financed Japan's industrial revolution.

One major reason not to save and invest in Africa has been inflation and instability: when people save money, it often ends up being confiscated. Victoria Baenongandi, for example, lasted just two weeks as an entrepreneur in eastern Congo. She bought a pile of merchandise to resell, but everything was seized by soldiers. So she returned home and gave up on business — and put her savings into beer.

Economic policy aside, East Asia enjoyed another crucial advantage over Africa, one that may be harder to replicate. Countries like South Korea or even China started the development process with citizens who were more literate and more healthy than those in other nations at their income levels, and they continued to improve. For all of China's persistent poverty, a child born in Shanghai in the early 1990's was more likely to learn to read and more likely to survive childhood than a baby born in New York City.

Some experts argue that East Asia's suc-



Education lags in Africa: a student at a mud-and-thatch school in Irumu, Congo.

cess in education derives not from Government programs — Asian governments actually spend a smaller share of G.N.P. on education than do African governments. Rather, literacy and other education achievements in Asia may have been helped greatly by a culture of parental concern that supports enormous private spending on education, arising from a Confucian reverence for scholarship.

Because of Confucianism, China has had national exams and the rough equivalent of university graduates for 2,000 years. In contrast, Tanzania is said to have had only 13 university graduates at independence in 1961.

Their histories also meant that most Asian

countries slipped fairly easily into the form of the modern nation-state, for they had a sense of nationhood that in some cases went back for millenniums. On the other hand, some African countries — a hodgepodge of ethnic groups within borders drawn arbitrarily by colonial rulers — are still struggling to adjust to modern nationhood. Such instability has always been fatal to economic development, whether in Cambodia or in Mozambique.

Health problems have also been a greater economic burden on Africa than is often realized. Most Africans, for example, have stomach worms, and as a result millions of people cannot study or work energetically, and some children have their intelligence

permanently impaired because of anemia caused by the parasites.

"From the age of two, most people here have worms," shrugged Bakondagama Barandala, a 24-year-old nurse at a shabby clinic in Mambasa, in northeastern Congo. The clinic is a metaphor for public health in Congo: it is the only clinic in the region, yet it has no doctor, no electricity, no drinking water, no instruments and no medicines.

The Graft Factor

For all the importance of education and health care, the cultivation of human capital seems to be effective only in tandem with the right economic policies. China was healthy and literate for its income level in the early 1960's when under Mao it underwent one of the worst economic contractions and famines in world history, one in which 30 million people died. Likewise, Tanzania for many years vigorously promoted education and health, but it stagnated because of catastrophic economic policies inspired by a quasi-socialist ideology.

One reason for some optimism about Africa now is its parallels with Asian countries earlier this century. Much like Asia was before its boom, Africa is relatively egalitarian in wealth, partly because land is not concentrated in the hands of a small elite (as in parts of Latin America). Similarly, in many African countries birth rates are dropping and literacy is rising.

Moreover, it's instructive to recall that Western pessimism over global basket cases was once directed at Asia too: it used to be fashionable to say that Chinese had no capacity for hard work and no feel for business, and that China was destined, as Samuel Taylor Coleridge put it, to "permanency without progression."

Among the most important studies of the lessons of East Asia are a 337-page report edited by two Harvard economists and just released by the Asian Development Bank, and another major report published by the World Bank in 1993. Those studies and related research point to other factors that go along with the nurturing of financial and human capital — especially the effectiveness of Asian governments.

Asian governments have often been more effective than Africa's in part because they have been less corrupt. Asia has huge amounts of corruption by American standards, but for the most part graft there is just another cost of doing business; in Africa it often prevents business from being done at all. A joke heard in business circles makes the point:

An African visited an Asian friend, a Government official, and admired the official's spectacular home and opulent life style. The Asian explained his wealth with a wink toward his "cut": "You see that highway out there? Fifteen percent!"

Then the Asian visited the African, also a Government official, and found that he was living just as lavishly. Asked how he had prospered, the African pointed outside, saying: "You see that highway out there?" "No," the Asian said, peering helplessly out the window. "What highway?" "That's just it. One hundred percent."

Ideas & Trends

Gas-Station Designers Have Fantasies, Too

By AGIS SALPUKAS

A ROBOTIC arm comes out of a gasoline pump and inserts itself in your gas tank. While it fills your tank, a scanner reads your credit card from a device attached to your key chain. You zoom off in two minutes flat.

The robotic arm, called "Smart Pump," and the scanner, called "Easy Pay," are both being tried out at a Shell station near Sacramento, Calif.

And that's not all. Most major oil companies are dreaming up other ways to transform the 160,000 gas stations in the country — trying out robotic systems, for instance, that would check the tire pressure, oil and water while the gas tank is being filled.

Does that mean that the old-fashioned American gas station is becoming a thing of the past? Maybe. And does anyone care? Maybe not.

The Thrill Is Gone

Surveys of customers show that Americans find buying gasoline about as appealing as cleaning their refrigerators. There is no thrill at the pump.

"Unlike buying a Coke or tennis shoes, you don't taste or feel the product after you're done," said Sam Morasca, the vice president of marketing for Shell Oil Company.

That's why people don't like to go to the gas station. And that's why Shell is also trying with the idea of home delivery, filling up your tank while the car sits in the driveway.

But the oil companies are not giving up their stations so fast. Why? They happen to be sitting on a real estate bonanza. Since their stations are usually located on convenient corners and off major thoroughfares, they are perfect places for customers to drive into and out of quickly. There is no better business location.

"You've got a good piece of real estate and you're trying to get good earnings from it," explained Brian Baker, the chief operating officer of the North America Marketing and Refining division of Mobil.

The opportunity to make a bigger profit has set off a frenzy of experiments around the country to see whether gas stations can be turned into one-stop shopping areas, places to drop off clothes for cleaning, mail a letter, get a bank loan, send flowers and rent a video.

The new gas stations would be more like micro-malls than simple rest stops with their usual staples of beer, soda, cigarettes and fast food.

But if surveys have shown that people don't like going to the gas station for gas, why would they go to gas stations to shop for other things?

Well, there is one thing that people dislike more than gas stations: going to a store, parking and standing in line to buy just a few items.

When pay-at-the-pump stations first opened, in 1986, marketing executives feared that customers would stop coming into the convenience stores inside the stations. After all, gas stations had built those stores on the assumption that customers who came in to pay for gas would buy other things on impulse.

"Historically it was tricking the gas customer into buying something," said Mr. Baker of Mobil Oil.

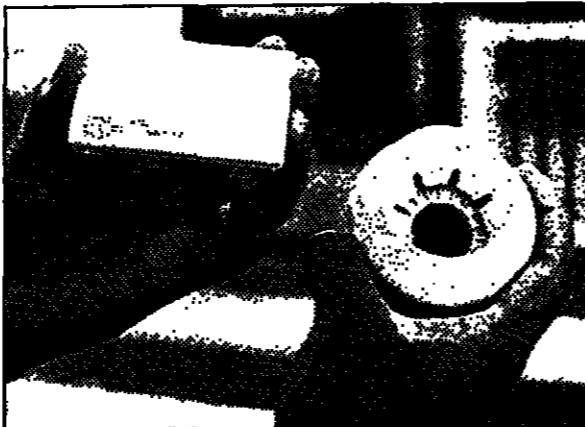
But marketing executives were surprised by what happened at the pay-at-the-pump stations. They found that drivers who wanted to buy only a few items but did not want to wait on line at the supermarket or maneuver for a parking place at the store would gladly shop at the gas station instead.

After all, the lines at the gas station's convenience store were relatively short because most of the gas was being paid for at the pump.

In fact, surveys of consumers showed that only about 1 in 3 going into a gas station's convenience store actually made the trip to buy gasoline.

"It's a totally different game now," said Mr. Baker. The convenience store is driving the gas station.

The gas station that runs on gas alone looks as if it is going the way of the cheerful attendant who used to come to your car to pump your gas, clean your windshield, look under the hood, take your money and send you on your way with a smile.



The Shell "Smart Pump" robotically dispenses gas to a car that has a small transmitter (left) on its windshield and a special filter cap.

Photographs by Owen Brewer/Sacramento Bee

Me, Myself and I

The Novelist as Narcissist

By GARY KRIST

A WRITER — call him "Gary Krist" — sits down and writes a novel about a writer — call him "Gary Krist" — who writes novels about writing novels.

Is this fiction? Imaginary memoir? Metafictional musing?

Well, yes. And whatever else it is, it seems to be an increasingly common ploy in contemporary fiction. David Leavitt's novella "The Term Paper Artist" and Paul Theroux's novel "My Other Life" are just the two most prominent recent examples of this phenomenon — fictions that feature the author as character, under his own name.

Not to be confused with straightforward memoirs, in which writers tell lies about themselves in the guise of nonfiction, these books frankly proclaim their fictionality. But unlike autobiographical novels, in which writers tell truths about themselves in the guise of fiction, they operate on a different level of coyness, playing more openly with the boundaries between actual fact and the products of imagination. As David Leavitt — or rather "David Leavitt" — notes in "The Term Paper Artist": "Writers often disguise their lives as fiction. The thing they almost never do is disguise fiction as their lives."

With all due respect to Mr. Leavitt, "almost never" is inaccurate. After all, "Philip Roth" has been appearing in Philip Roth novels for years now. Others who have featured in their own fictions include Paul Auster, Frederick Exley, Norman Mailer, Jorge Luis Borges and J. G. Ballard.

Although each of these authors has his own reasons for engaging in the practice — to ruminate on the multi-layered selves of the writer, to explore the possibilities of personal myth-making or simply to ask that always tantalizing question "What if?" — all of them seem to be toying with what Mr. Roth has called "the terrible ambiguity of the 'I.'"

Navel Gazing

Is there something particular about our weary, end-of-the-millennium epoch that inspires this kind of self-conscious games-playing? The literary critic Jonathan Yardley, who takes a dim view of at least some of these egomaniacal authors, thinks so. "We seem to be caught in a moment of change or indecision in the development of American literature," he says. "The novel has become an exhausted, depleted genre — all self-absorption and navel-gazing. There's no interest in anything other than self."

Admittedly, such playing around with alter egos can be tedious and confusing, often leading to the kind of philosophical wheel-spinning inspired by things like sci-fi movies about time travel. "But wait, if he changes the past in such a drastic way, he won't exist in the new future and so won't be able to make the trip to the past to create the new future," etc. etc. In novels that blur the line between author and character, the comedians can be equally frustrating. "But wait, if the fictional 'Philip Roth' in 'Deception' tells his wife that the woman he is accused of sleeping with is only a fictional character, just who is in bed with whom in those seduction scenes?"

The new writers who used the technique in the post-modern age seemed less solipsistic somehow.

When, for instance, "Christopher Isherwood" began appearing in Christopher Isherwood's Berlin stories in the 1930's, the intent was clearly to focus attention on



Randy Jones

the stories' other characters (in "Goodbye to Berlin," Isherwood famously wrote, "I am a camera, with its shutter open, quite passive, recording, not thinking.")

One significant aspect of the egomaniacal-author syndrome is that it seems to strike men far more often than women. The closest thing to a female practitioner seems to be Erica Jong, several of whose novels feature a writer-protagonist named "Isadora Wing" — an almost homophonous twist on the author's own name. Is there some reason that women prefer to turn instead to the confessional memoir (as they seem to be doing in droves these days), in order to talk at length about themselves?

Fame First

Dwight Garner, book editor for the on-line magazine Salon, believes the explanation may be that girls — whether by nature or nurture — are less prone than boys to elaborate fantasies starring themselves: "Unlike so many men, particularly American men, women don't grow up as wannabe playground heroes," he said. "They don't spend their entire childhoods with a sports-caster's voice in their heads, encouraging them to think of themselves in the third person and to exaggerate their own exploits. You can't imagine Cynthia Ozick saying to herself, as you can with Philip Roth at age 9: 'Roth fades back to pass, spies Mailer wide open in the end zone, and — oh! — drills it home!'"

This sports analogy is telling, because the author-as-character phenomenon seems closely tied to the growing tendency of Americans to place value indiscriminately on fame, whether fame has been achieved through touchdown passes, runaway bestsellers or scandal.

It's interesting to note that most of these authors

didn't start baldly fictionalizing themselves until they'd attained serious notoriety beyond the literary world. Mr. Leavitt, for instance, wrote "The Term Paper Artist" only after he was sued by Stephen Spender, who accused him of plagiarizing the British poet's life in the novel "While England Slept" — an episode that moved Mr. Leavitt's name from the book review pages to the front page of many newspapers.

Moreover, the rising trajectory of self-reference in the work of some of these writers seems to parallel exactly the rising trajectory of their fame. Philip Roth used the fictional Nathan Zuckerman as his alter ego long before introducing himself as a character (although Zuckerman returns, sans "Philip Roth," in the most recent Roth novel, "American Pastoral"). And Paul Theroux, a few years before his appearance under his own name in "My Other Life," wrote a novel called "My Secret History," in which he hid behind the more traditionally autobiographical character of André Parent (another American novelist/character writer with a French-sounding name).

Readers' Fault

So perhaps the reading public is ultimately responsible for the epidemic of literary self-obsession. Since major novelists are now treated as celebrities whose biographies are of more interest than their purely imaginative creations, it's only natural that they have learned to capitalize on the fascination. And while many readers are delighted to have this glimpse, however distorted, into the lives of celebrity authors, others — Mr. Yardley among them — are less enchanted.

"Fiction," he said, "should be about more important matters."

Culture Wars' Appomattox

Continued From Page 1

universities are seen in the broader culture as cranks to a degree that they certainly weren't 10 years ago," he said. "So the critique of political correctness has cut off the university intelligentsia from the larger current of political ideas."

Conservative pundits dominate opinion pages and the airwaves; their counterparts on the left huddle close to the political center. Conservative ideas, such as the critique of affirmative action, have moved into the mainstream, and the mainstream has moved right.

"You might say the culture wars are over because they have won," Stanley Katz, president of the American Council of Learned Societies, an umbrella organization of scholarly groups, said of the right. "If you ask what is liberalism these days, nobody wants to answer the question. They won a lot, in terms of the way people think about things."

As some historians see it, culture wars are unwinnable. They have recurred throughout the 20th century in various forms — noisy skirmishes, like the ones around the time of the Scopes trial, over what kind of a society American society should be, breaking out at those moments when social changes become impossible to ignore.

So, why the hull now? Economic issues, particularly in higher education, may be eclipsing cultural conflicts (which media attention made look like the norm and therefore too normal to remain news). Culture-war hyperbole makes stirring campaign rhetoric, but 1997 is not a national election year.

Furthermore, it is unclear that the public was ever all that deeply split. Paul DiMaggio, a Princeton University sociologist, reviewed several decades worth of national survey data and found no dramatic rise in polarization of public opinion on social issues over the last 20 years.

Looking at attitudes on everything from race and gender to family values, he found increased polarization only on abortion. The only people who seemed to have grown generally more polarized were those who identified themselves strongly as Republicans and Democrats.

A Way to Think

By searching newspaper and magazine databases for the term "culture war," Professor DiMaggio found that the phrase began cropping up in conservative publications in the late 1980's and early 1990's, then moved into widespread, more mainstream use during the 1992 Presidential campaign.

"Part of the strategy of the Christian right was to construct a culture war, or to make the culture war a salient way for people to think about their political views and alliances," he said. While the left traced discontent to economic inequality, the right blamed a cultural or moral crisis.

Not too long ago, Ellen Willis, the writer and feminist, found herself discussing with her partner, Stanley Aronowitz, the sociologist and Marxist, "how odd it is that everybody feels they've lost the culture war."

It all depends on the standard of measurement used, she figures.

"If you're a conservative and you're measuring today's culture against the 50's, you've been completely devastated," Ms. Willis said. "And if you're a feminist and a cultural radical and measuring today against the 60's or early 70's, it's pretty depressing."

"In fact, I think the cultural left has made enormous inroads into the culture that can never entirely be rolled back. At the same time, for me, compared to the visions I have for cultural liberation, this is culturally, as well as economically, a depressing situation."

Gary Krist is the author of two short story collections, "The Canyon State" and "Bone by Bone."

ECONOMY

Digital Equipment Makes One Last Grab for Glory

By LAURENCE ZUCKERMAN

EAGER to change its stodgy image, the Digital Equipment Corporation was host for "a night of fun and frivolity" for reporters and industry analysts at a Manhattan comedy club last week, a world away from its headquarters in a converted mill outside Boston. But Robert B. Palmer, Digital's chairman and chief executive, skipped the event, choosing instead to have dinner on the town.

"In this job, you don't get much time to decompress," he explained. Indeed, after five years of trying to halt Digital's seemingly inexorable slide from the top ranks of corporate America, the pressure on Mr. Palmer is building.

Since taking the helm in 1992 after the ouster of Digital's legendary founder, Kenneth H. Olsen, Mr. Palmer has cut 59,000 of the company's 114,000 jobs and posted billions of dollars in losses. But in this booming market for information technology, Digital still has not been able to find its way: it is expected to post only a modest profit this fiscal year after losing \$112 million last year.

Known as a demanding leader who expects his executives to make their numbers, Mr. Palmer has forced out three of his top lieutenants and ushered in two major corporate reorgani-

zations after a series of embarrassing management fumbles. Digital's stock price, which closed on Friday at \$36, is slightly below where it was when he won the top job, while the values of rivals like Hewlett-Packard and Sun Microsystems have quadrupled.

Now, in the wake of the company's headline-grabbing patent infringement lawsuit against the Intel Corporation, filed earlier this month, and with another corporate reshuffling set to take effect on July 1, Mr. Palmer seems poised to either start making his numbers or find himself out of a job.

"The company has to start showing a sustainable turnaround, or you would assume that the board is going to start to get frustrated and get somebody else," said Gary Helmig, an analyst at the Soundview Financial Group in Stamford, Conn.

Even Digital's shareholders, who have accepted the 40-year-old company's dismal performance with little protest, may be losing patience. Next month, Digital investors will gather in Manhattan for a meeting held by Providence Capital Inc., an investment firm known for its aggressive campaigns against corporate management.

In addition, shareholder resolutions have been proposed for consideration at the company's annual meeting later this year to force Digital to remove its poison pill anti-

takeover defense and to hire an investment banker to consider selling the company.

Two years ago, Digital, the nation's fourth-largest computer maker, came close to selling itself to the third-biggest, Compaq Computer, for about \$60 a share, according to a recent report in The Wall Street Journal. But the negotiations were said to have fallen apart when it became clear just how much operating independence Digital would lose. Both companies declined to comment.

With its stock now trading at just over half of what Compaq reportedly offered, Digital appears to be even more attractive to a potential buyer, especially because it has \$2.48 billion in cash, or nearly \$9.50 a share after accounting for its debt.

THE president of Providence, Herbert A. Denton, said that he expected to draw 30 percent to 40 percent of Digital investors to the meeting his company is sponsoring.

In an indication of how Digital views the meeting, the company, based in Maynard, Mass., has declined to send a representative, saying it already has adequate communications with its shareholders.

One thing that activist stockholders are most likely to criticize is Digital's board.

"I like to see directors who are willing to make a capital commitment to the company and put some of their net worth at risk," said Neil Minow, a principal at Lens, an investment firm that also specializes in shareholder activism.

Born in Stephenville, Tex., in the northeastern part of the state, Mr. Palmer worked his way through Texas Tech University, where he received a master's degree in physics. He eventually helped to found the Mostek Corporation, a semiconductor maker, which was later bought by United Technologies. He joined Digital to run its chip operations in 1985.

In an interview last week, Mr. Palmer defended the board, which he said has given him its full backing. He also readily acknowledged that he had made mistakes.

Yet he says he is the right man to be running Digital. "I've learned a tremendous amount in this job, and it is not the sort of thing you can learn by reading textbooks," he said.

Others disagree. "He doesn't understand computers," said C. Gordon Bell, who led the team that created Digital's Vax minicomputer, which rang up huge profits for the company in the 1980's. Mr. Bell, now a senior researcher at the Microsoft Corporation, added, "He has only been able to do one thing and that is financial control," referring to the job cuts.

But Mr. Palmer also has his defenders. "He is a very smart guy," said Larry Walker, the former head of Digital's networking products division who now runs Certco, an Internet software company in New York. "He is decisive. He is a person driven with the right values."

KNOwn around Digital as GQ Bob, the dapper Mr. Palmer, 56, was wearing his trademark double-breasted suit during a visit to Manhattan last week. With his hair slicked back and his face tanned, he appeared relaxed.

But he also acknowledged that he was in the hot seat, admitting that he put his reputation as chief executive on the line when he decided to sue Intel. The suit, filed in Federal court in Worcester, Mass., contends that the chip maker violated 10 Digital design patents to increase the performance of its Pentium, Pentium Pro and Pentium II chips, which are at the heart of more than 85 percent of the world's personal computers.

Most analysts have concluded that Digital has little chance of getting anything from Intel, which said it will vigorously defend itself against Digital's accusations. They assume that Intel, which holds hundreds of design patents of its own, will counter-sue. And while the legal action drags on for years, Intel will continue to sell its products.

But Mr. Palmer and other Digital executives said they never intended to stop Intel from selling Pentiums.



Robert B. Palmer, on the hot seat as CEO of Digital Equipment Corp.

Doing so would cause the PC industry to grind to a halt, hurting Digital, which sells more than \$2 billion of Pentium-based computers a year. (Intel is also a Digital customer, and both companies have said that the lawsuit will not affect their commercial relationship.)

Instead, the suit is aimed at slowing Intel's efforts to introduce its next-generation chip, which is a crucial step in the company's campaign to move from low-end desktop computers into the more powerful servers that are the workhorses at large enterprises. These machines had the preserve of companies like Digital and I.B.M.

Based on an architecture jointly developed by Intel and Hewlett-Packard, the new family of chips will process 64 bits of data in each gulp, compared with today chips, which process 32 bits. It will also run software written for today's Pentiums as well as for Hewlett-Packard's PARISC chip, which uses the Unix operating system. The first of these new chips is code-named Merced (pronounced murr-SED), and is set to be introduced at the end of the decade.

That is a direct threat to Digital, which was the first company to introduce a 64-bit chip three years ago. That chip, called Alpha, is the world's fastest. But Digital has had trouble selling it, in large part because it does not run all the software written for Intel-based machines.

For the last year or so, however, Digital has offered a translator that enables Alpha machines to run software written for Intel-based computers.

The greater performance of Alpha over the Pentium, the easier it is for Digital to sell customers on the chip's raw power. But 18 months ago, Intel introduced the Pentium Pro, which narrowed the gap with Alpha. Many of Digital's corporate customers are willing to accept a somewhat slower chip to avoid the headache of changing their software. And now with the promise of Merced in the near future, the case for Alpha is that much weaker.

"The acceptance of Alpha by other systems companies would have been much greater had Intel not been able to improve the performance of their own processors by a wide margin," Mr. Palmer said. "In that regard, there is no question that we have been greatly damaged."

DIGITAL believes that the patent-infringement suit will either delay the introduction of Merced, giving Digital more time to establish Alpha, or force Intel to introduce a slower chip than it might have otherwise.

Of course, if Intel ends up paying Digital some of the billions of dollars in damages it is seeking, that would be nice for the company, too. To lead its fight, Digital hired Herbert Schwartz, a New York lawyer who helped Polaroid win an \$873 million damage award from Eastman Kodak in a patent infringement case in the 1980's. But few people in the industry seem to believe that Digital will ever receive that kind of money.

Another potential resolution could be some sort of settlement between Intel and Digital that assures a future for Alpha.

Inside Digital, the lawsuit has proved to be a surprising morale

booster.

Digital, well known as a technology innovator, invented the minicomputer, which was the first challenge to the mainframe, back in the 1960's, and it was the first company to link its computers in networks. In the 1980's, its Vax minicomputers were as hot as Intel chips are today. And the company's financial results were equally heady: growth in revenue and profits averaged 30 percent a year for the 20 years prior to 1990.

But the losses and layoffs that came in the early 1990's, as a result of Mr. Olsen's refusal to acknowledge that the Vax line was going out of style, have shaken Digital to its core.

"The company has been going through an identity crisis, or maybe a grieving process," said Lucia Quinn, a Digital marketing executive who will soon be in charge of Digital's global brand image. "The Intel suit has energized people. It changed the conversation inside the company."

But outside Digital, the suit is increasingly seen as a sign of desperation, an attempt to make up in the courtroom what the company has failed to do in the marketplace.

"Digital doesn't have a lot to lose," said Steven Milunovich, an analyst at Morgan Stanley in New York.

AFTER taking over from Mr. Olsen, who racked up \$3.4 billion in losses in 1991 and 1992, Mr. Palmer set out to embrace the open standards that were sweeping the computer industry. The bottom had fallen out of Digital's business because customers were no longer willing to buy from a single vendor complete systems that came loaded with proprietary operating software, like Digital's minicomputers.

The new era was a culture shock for companies like Digital, I.B.M., Unisys and Data General. Selling complete systems provided profit margins of nearly 50 percent, while selling the parts was much more competitive, leading to lower prices and profits. Technological prowess became less important than speed and slick marketing.

Digital, which prided itself on its technology, was fat and slow. It could no longer support 114,000 employees. Mr. Palmer had the unenviable job of shrinking the company while remaking its strategy.

He focused on Alpha, with its world-beating speed, and cut a deal with Microsoft to have Windows NT, its new network operating system, run on the new chip. (To Digital's embarrassment, David Cutler, the leader of the team that created Windows NT, was a longtime Digital employee who was lured away by Microsoft after Digital canceled a similar project he was working on in the 1980's.)

In August 1995, Mr. Palmer and Microsoft's chief, Bill Gates, announced a broad alliance in which, among other things, Microsoft would pay to have 1,500 employees of Digital's large services division trained as certified Windows NT engineers — more than the number at Microsoft itself.

But because Windows NT is still only a 32-bit operating system, Mr. Palmer ordered Digital's engineers to write a version of the Unix operating system to take advantage of Al-

pha's 64-bit capability. The results have been a powerful line of computers that are now used to run some of the busiest sites on the World Wide Web, among other applications. For example, an Alpha server powers Digital's popular Alta Vista search site.

But the market for such products has remained narrow because there is still relatively little software that can take advantage of Alpha's power. As a result, Digital has failed to get a large computer maker to sell Alpha-based systems, though Samsung, the South Korean chip maker, has agreed to produce inexpensive Alpha chips that Digital says will soon be available from outside vendors in PC's priced as low as \$2,500.

The Microsoft pact, while still promising, has been slow to show results because Windows NT is only now beginning to be widely adopted. While Digital's NT revenues have more than doubled in each of the last two years, they still only amount to about \$450 million, a small fraction of the company's roughly \$14 billion in overall sales.

In March, Hewlett-Packard, Digital's archrival, announced its own partnership with Microsoft to promote Windows NT to businesses. The move was widely seen as a blow to Digital, which has been trumpeting its close relations with Microsoft. Digital has also been plagued by Mr. Palmer's inability to settle on an executive team and on a corporate structure that produces sustained earnings growth and profits.

In 1993, Edward E. Lucente, who spent more than 30 years at I.B.M., was hired to be the head of sales and marketing, which has been a particular weakness for Digital for years. But after a disastrous quarter in early 1994, Mr. Lucente was forced out after just a year on the job.

Another casualty was Bernard Auer, who was hired to increase Digital's personal computer sales. Mr. Auer was ousted in 1995 when he did not produce the desired growth.

Mr. Auer was replaced by Bruce L. Clafin, who was hired away from I.B.M.'s PC division. Two weeks after he arrived at Digital, in November 1995, Mr. Clafin recalled recently, he asked members of his team how many Digital PC's had been sold by computer dealers. He was greeted by blank stares.

That quarter, Digital had its best PC sales ever but Mr. Clafin quickly realized that few of the machines were actually getting to customers. Digital had been booking millions of dollars in sales to dealers without paying attention to how many computers the dealers themselves sold.

"Every quarter, we were putting in 30 to 50 percent more than was selling out," Mr. Clafin said.

The bubble burst when PC prices began dropping sharply in the spring of 1996. Like other PC makers, Digital was committed to taking back unsold computers and covering dealers when prices fell. The inventory glut cost Digital tens of millions of dollars over the next few months.

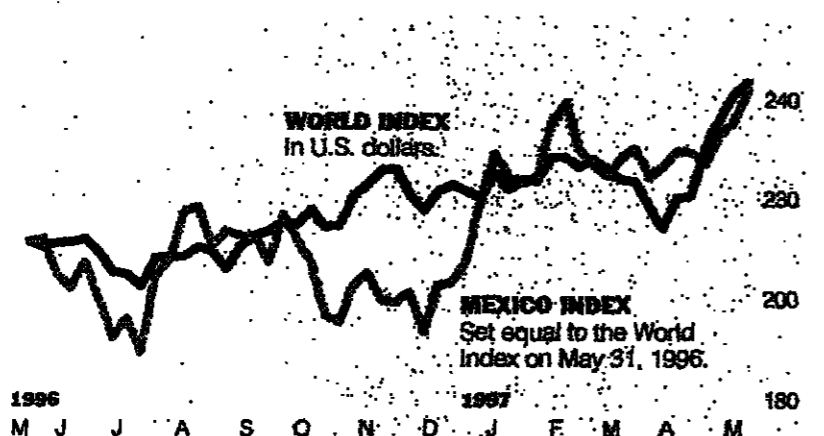
Digital's stock price, which climbed as high as \$76.50 in February 1996 as investors became optimistic about its prospects, began to decline. Enrico Pesatori, Mr. Lucente's successor and Mr. Palmer's de facto No. 2, resigned in July 1996 after Mr. Palmer dealt with the mess by announcing a \$492 million restructuring charge and 7,000 new job cuts.

Mr. Palmer now attributes the costly mistake to the fact that Digital, which had always relied solely on a direct sales force, was new to selling through a network of dealers.

"That clearly was an error that had to be corrected," he said. The news got worse last October, when Digital reported a quarterly loss that was three times larger than analysts had predicted. Mr. Palmer said that the company had cut its direct sales force too deeply to reduce costs. To fix that problem, he said, the force, which had been reduced to 1,000 people, would be expanded to cover Digital's 2,500 largest accounts.

Last month, Mr. Palmer announced a third reorganization that would put Mr. Clafin, who succeeded in turning around the PC business, in charge of worldwide sales and marketing, beginning July 1.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS

Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	YTD Dividend Yield	Index	YTD % Chg.
Australia	231.51	0.1	20	4.3	19	3.85	201.08	8.2
Austria	197.86	3.3	5	4.2	20	1.89	173.85	14.4
Belgium	252.34	1.4	15	10.8	11	3.29	217.18	21.8
Brazil	258.19	1.4	14	36.1	1	1.41	508.90	40.3
Britain	299.76	-1.1	26	5.9	17	3.65	272.65	11.1
Canada	207.96	3.1	6	9.5	13	1.88	208.82	9.8
Denmark	388.69	-0.2	22	10.4	12	1.49	340.38	20.5
Finland	279.84	2.5	10	13.9	5	1.52	299.58	26.1
France	230.92	-0.6	24	7.9	15	2.75	206.34	18.2
Germany	213.83	0.2	19	12.5	7	1.51	187.95	23.5
Hong Kong	508.25	2.2	11	0.2	22	2.99	505.06	0.3
Indonesia	225.09	0.3	18	-1.4	23	1.69	337.13	1.9
Ireland	346.65	-1.2	27	5.4	18	3.02	323.05	18.0
Italy	91.15	-0.4	23	9.2	14	2.21	113.39	19.6
Japan	132.14	-0.9	25	2.4	21	0.82	96.38	1.8
Malaysia	531.03	3.5	3	-12.0	26	1.33	511.61	-12.8
Mexico	1,437.55	2.6	9	17.9	3	1.21	12,383.00	17.9
Netherlands	377.65	1.4	13	12.3	8	2.39	327.61	23.4
New Zealand	87.88	-0.0	21	-4.2	24	4.26	67.54	-2.1
Norway	312.98	3.0	7	5.9	16	2.06	299.23	16.8
Philippines	-158.76	3.3	4	-22.0	27	0.89	208.71	-21.8
Singapore	389.13	0.7	17	-7.3	25	1.17	256.79	-5.1
South Africa	354.57	-1.3	28	11.3	9	2.46	346.57	6.5
Spain	254.83	3.0	8	15.9	4	2.37	275.28	27.1
Sweden	467.61	3.6	2	10.8	10	1.97	525.55	23.2
Switzerland	297.42	1.3	16	24.7	2	1.29	259.51	30.7
Thailand	64.23	7.5	1	-32.9	28	4.88	63.95	-32.9
United States	342.72	2.1	12	13.5	6	1.78	342.72	13.5

COMPOSITE INDICES

Region	Index	Week % Chg.	YTD % Chg.	YTD Dividend Yield	Index	YTD % Chg.
Europe	264.28	0.2	10.3	2.62	242.55	18.6
Pacific Basin	150.31	-0.3	1.1	1.30	110.37	0.8
Europe/Pacific	197.85	-0.0	6.1	2.03	160.24	10.2
World	246.06	1.0	9.7	1.91	217.09	11.8

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1997 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

CURRENCIES

Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	115.66	115.55	+0.09	107.90
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.6935	1.6925	+0.05	1.5432
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3743	1.3735	+0.05	1.3735
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6345	1.6367	-0.13	1.5120

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets, exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

May 19-23: The Long Bond Flirts With 7 Percent as Small Stocks Keep Rising

PRICES

DOMESTIC EQUITIES

Broad market S. & P. 500 index	Up 2.08%	847.03
Blue chips Dow 30 industrials	Up 2.10%	7,345.91
Small capitalization Russell 2000 index	Up 2.84%	375.67

DOMESTIC BONDS

Treasuries Ryan Labs. Total Return	Down 0.16%	195.46
Municipals Bond Buyer index	Up 0.51%	116.88
Corporates Merrill Lynch Master index	Down 0.17%	856.86

AROUND THE WORLD

European stocks F.T.-Actuaries Europe	Up 0.19%	264.28
Asian stocks F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	Down 0.30%	150.31
Gold New York cash price	Down 1.10%	\$341.10

Foreign indexes are given in dollar terms

YIELDS

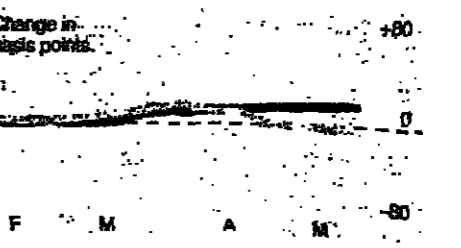
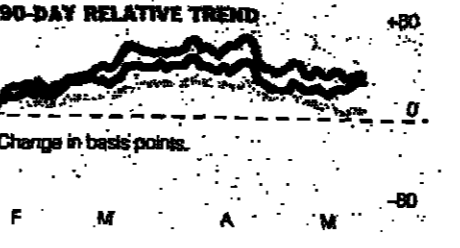
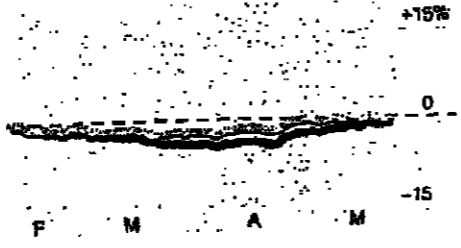
BONDS

Long bonds 30-year Treasuries	6.98%	Up 8 basis pts.
Notes 2-year Treasuries	6.22%	Down 3 basis pts.
Municipals Bond Buyer index	5.75%	Down 1 basis pt.

100 basis points = 1 percentage point

OTHER INVESTMENTS

Money market funds Taxable average	4.98%	Unchanged
Bank C.D.'s 1-year small savers	5.23%	Up 1 basis pt.
Stocks S. & P. 500 dividend yield	1.85%	Unchanged



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets, The Bond Buyer, Datastream, Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

The New York Times

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Some Hope for Campaign Reform

It is no secret in Washington that the proponents of campaign finance reform have had trouble rounding up supporters in Congress. Despite overwhelming popular demand for curbing the flow of corporate and special-interest money into the political system, and the troubling disclosures about abuses by Democrats and Republicans, the politicians who have profited from the current system were never likely to embrace change. But the cause of reform is not as bleak as some suppose. In fact, there are signs of life and grounds for hope.

Because Senator Trent Lott has refused to lead his party toward a cleanup, it has been especially hard to get Republican support in the Senate for the legislation sponsored by Senators John McCain of Arizona and Russell Feingold of Wisconsin. Last week, however, Mr. McCain won the endorsement of Susan Collins, a fellow Republican from Maine, and there are prospects of lining up still more support. To get her backing, Mr. McCain had to drop his bill's proposed ban on contributions to Federal candidates by political action committees, or PAC's. Instead, the bill would reduce the maximum PAC contributions from \$5,000 to \$2,500.

Mr. McCain has made it clear that he would be willing to make other concessions to pick up more support. A spirit of compromise and flexibility is obviously essential. But so is the obligation to insure that old loopholes that allowed out-of-control fundraising last year are not simply replaced by new loopholes and new abuses. The absolute minimum requirement should be a ban on so-called "soft money" raised by the national and local party organizations outside the current limits on contributions imposed by Federal law.

But what if such a ban merely channels money into supposedly independent entities like the Christian Coalition, labor unions or even dummy groups

working surreptitiously with the candidates themselves? The McCain-Feingold legislation meets this problem by requiring that independent groups spending more than \$10,000 for broadcast ads two months before an election that even mention a candidate's name be subject to restrictions. For example, a corporation or labor union could not finance the ad, and an individual's contribution could not exceed \$5,000. This provision may need further refinement to pass constitutional muster, but its purpose is sound.

In his State of the Union Message last winter, President Clinton challenged Congress to pass campaign financing reform by July 4. That appeal was based in part on the notion that Congressional hearings into the abuses of last year would have gotten off the ground by then. But Senator Fred Thompson, the Tennessee Republican heading the Senate's inquiry, is not due to start his hearings until July.

Now some in Congress say that the cause of reform will be stronger in the fall, presumably after the hearings have generated public support for change. That may be so. But the hearings should not be an excuse to put off a vote. Mr. McCain needs to confront Mr. Lott and demand a vote on reform before the cause runs out of steam. Since the Senate rules allow it, he and other proponents should be prepared to offer the legislation as an amendment to other legislation and force senators now sitting on the fence to vote yes or no. That was how the ban on gifts to senators came about in the last session.

Many in Congress wish that the whole issue would go away. They need to understand that the public has put a high priority on reform. If they need any reminders on this score, they might spend some time listening to their constituents while they are home for the holidays.

Security Failures in the Schools

An outbreak of sexual violence has swept through New York City's schools, highlighting abysmal lapses in school management and security. The failure to protect schoolchildren only strengthens Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's case in calling for police control of school security.

In the worst incident, four 17- and 18-year-old male students at August Martin High School in Queens allegedly gang-raped a 14-year-old female student after luring her to an empty classroom last month. The girl told a counselor, but apparently described the attack as sexual abuse, not rape, and balked at pursuing criminal charges.

Neither the counselor nor an assistant principal, who also learned of the incident, bothered to inform the principal or a borough supervisor, as required by Board of Education guidelines. Their failure constituted a serious lapse in common sense and an unconscionable breach of duty to protect other students. When prosecutors got around to charging four male students with the assault, another female student came forward to say that she had been sexually abused in the basement of the same school building after the first incident. Would she have escaped harm if top school officials had addressed security concerns more quickly and decisively after the first incident?

Similar lapses occurred in a Brooklyn intermediate school, where a 41-year-old music teacher is accused of sexually abusing a 13-year-old female student. The school custodian tried to report the suspected abuse to the principal, but was told to put the complaint in writing because the principal felt his verbal report was too vague. Reluctant to file a written complaint, the custodian waited three weeks before making a report to the special commissioner of investigation for city schools. Even after the special investigator confronted the principal with the allegations, the teacher was not immediately reassigned to non-classroom duties. The teacher then had an angry confrontation with the student, which could jeopardize her future testimony.

Mr. Giuliani has seized on these incidents to renew his push to have the Police Department assume responsibility for security in the schools. A stronger police presence might have deterred the four alleged rapists and might have provided an alternative authority to whom the school custodian could have made his report.

Although Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew opposes the idea of a police presence, the Board of Education should welcome any help it can get. Its record on safety is dismal.

Editorial Notebook

A Rattletrap Space Station

Every time I hear of some new breakdown aboard Russia's Mir space station, I think of my visit some years ago to the Space Research Institute in Moscow. The institute was home to some of the world's most advanced scientific work, and had just choreographed a rendezvous in distant space for one of its spacecraft and Halley's comet. Surely this was one Soviet organization that had eliminated the backward technology so evident in more pedestrian fields like consumer electronics. Then I saw the cashier at the institute cafeteria. She was calculating my lunch tab on an abacus.

Michael Foale, the latest American astronaut to take up residence aboard Mir, may not want to look too closely at his quarters. Several years of firsthand experience with Soviet technology tell me the station, now in its 11th year in orbit, is a space jalopy.

It was built to last five years. By the technological standards common in the Soviet Union when Mir was assembled in 1988, its actual life expectancy was probably three years. That means that the risk of living on Mir these days may be akin to moving into a Texas trailer park minutes before a tornado hits.

Mr. Foale was delivered to Mir by an American space shuttle crammed with repair parts. Since the beginning of the year, Mir has survived a fire, a breakdown in its main oxygen system, a partial power loss and the overheating of one of its air purification systems.

NASA has played down the severity of the problems, and presumably would not knowingly send an astronaut to live aboard a spacecraft that was dangerously broken. But as I discovered during a three-and-a-half-year tour in Moscow, it was always safer to assume the worst about Soviet technology.

Initially, this puzzled me, for like most Americans who grew up during the cold war, I believed the Soviet Union was on its way to surpassing the United States as a technological power. Moscow sent the first satellite into orbit in 1957, and the first man into space in 1961.

It was hard to square those impressions with the reality I encountered when I arrived as a correspondent in 1965, just after Mikhail Gorbachev took power. The strident crew reminded passengers that photography was

Pushing the Limits Of Soviet Technology

prohibited after we entered Soviet airspace, but as we descended over the countryside outside Moscow the only thing visible was a landscape of 18th-century villages. The airplane was directed from the runway to the arrival gate by a little yellow truck with a large sign on the back that said, in English, "Follow Me."

Television stations signed off with an alarming message reminding viewers to turn off their sets. Soviet televisions had a tendency to catch fire when left on too long. A colleague told me of the down jacket she had sent to Moscow's sole dry cleaner. The nylon shell came back in one bag, the goose feathers in another.

Phone problems were partly attributable to the Government's effort to monitor calls. But even the special phone lines operated for Government and Communist Party officials were unreliable. A top Pravda editor interrupted an interview with me one day to take a call on a Government line from a Kremlin leader. He had to shout to make himself heard a few blocks away.

The Chernobyl nuclear accident effectively erased any notions of technological competence. The botched experiment and the reactor explosion that followed were partly due to human incompetence, but the reactor design was flawed. Initial efforts to deal with the accident, while heroic, were surprisingly crude. Helicopters dumped sand on the melting reactor in an ineffectual effort to stop the spread of deadly nuclear particles.

Every country has technological failures, including the United States, few more spectacular than the 1986 Challenger explosion or the wounded flight of Apollo 13. Americans should beware of technological chauvinism.

Still, there was something different in kind and degree about the raw state of Soviet technology. One American missile expert seriously mentioned one day that all the preparations for nuclear war had ignored one crucial possibility. Soviet missiles, which had never been tested across turbulent polar magnetic fields, might not reach their North American targets.

Michael Foale might want to keep that in mind as he stows his gear aboard Mir. The rivets and welding seams may not be what they were in 1986.

PHILIP TAUBMAN

Report Oversells Immigration's Meager Benefits

To the Editor:

Anyone who reads beyond the first two paragraphs of "Academy's Report Says Immigration Benefits the U.S." (front page, May 18) has to wonder, What benefits?

The alleged benefit appears to be a \$10 billion annual increase in gross national product in a \$7 trillion economy. That is a one-seventh of 1 percent increase. The cost of that minimal boost is massive population growth, loss of wages among less-skilled Americans, an increase in the high school dropout rate, exacerbation of the wealth gap and substantial tax burdens for state and local governments. Is it really worth it?

The other alleged benefit, according to the academy, is that immigrants will pay for the retirement of baby boomers. Low-wage immigrants, who are heavily dependent on

social services, will finance the retirement of affluent retirees?

The academy overlooks another obvious fact: Immigrants get old, too. Within a few years of the baby boomers' retirement, we'll have to figure out how to pay for Social Security for a lot of elderly immigrants.

A better headline for this article might have been "Academy's Report Says Immigration Benefits Some in the U.S., at Great Expense to Most."

DAN STEIN
Exec. Dir., Federation
for American Immigration Reform
Washington, May 19, 1997

Help Workers Compete

To the Editor:

In your May 18 front-page article on the National Academy of Sciences immigration report, James P. Smith,

who led the study, is quoted as saying that though native-born Americans without a high school education have seen their wages fall slightly, the vast majority of Americans are enjoying a healthier economy. The 1990 Census found that 44 million Americans (about 25 percent of the adult population at that time) did not have a high school degree.

Mr. Smith may be right about the vast majority, but a very significant portion of our adult population has seen wages decline over 15 years.

The solution is not controls on immigration but opportunities for adults to improve basic skills, pass the high school equivalency exam and enter skill training or community college. Unfortunately, all of the Federal, state, local and private money available for these programs is less than \$1 billion per year, or \$23 per person without a high school degree. If we add to the 44 million those Americans with a high school degree but literacy skills below a ninth-grade level, the per-person expenditure drops to less than \$15.

We are becoming a country of two populations — one with the education to compete in the global market for good wages and benefits, and the other whose education leaves them competing against recent immigrants and workers in low-wage countries. This is unacceptable to decent people and dangerous for our national future.

We cannot increase wages with tax cuts that produce more low-wage jobs, but we can do it with investments in the education of both our native-born and immigrant workforce.

JOHN P. COMINGS
Cambridge Mass., May 19, 1997
The writer is director of the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy at Harvard.

Better Birth Control

To the Editor:

A recent report by the National Academy of Sciences (front page, May 18) assessed the costs and benefits of immigration. It is useful to place immigration in the context of domestic population growth.

The 1.5 million births resulting from unplanned pregnancies will have a greater population impact this year than the 916,000 legal immigrants who reach our shores. Unplanned pregnancy can impose real suffering on individuals and families. The costs to society are great as well.

Sex education and contraceptive availability can do more to achieve population stabilization than any amount of tinkering with immigration levels.

PETER H. KOSTMAYER
Executive Director
Zero Population Growth
Washington, May 20, 1997

Congress Wasn't Stingy On Workfare Incentives

To the Editor:

"Where Welfare Stands" (editorial, May 18) is flawed by two errors of omission.

You cite Mary Jo Bane and David T. Ellwood, the authors of "Welfare Realities: From Rhetoric to Reform," for the proposition that "most recipients rotated on and off welfare in short bursts. A smaller group, with few job skills, made welfare a long-term life style." But Ms. Bane and Mr. Ellwood point out that those comprising the latter group "tend to accumulate" and are thus a majority of those on welfare.

Also misleading is your statement that "Congress did little to support" the 1988 Family Support Act, "providing only \$1 billion, to be matched by the states, to pay for welfare-to-work programs." In fact, in the law and in other legislation passed from the mid-1980's to 1992, Congress provided massive financing for other programs designed to support the welfare-to-work concept.

They included a major expansion of day care programs and Head Start; a major increase in the earned income tax credit, which increased the financial attractiveness of moving from welfare to a job; a major increase in the income limits for Medicaid coverage, which eliminated a serious disincentive (loss of a family's Medicaid health coverage) to going off welfare. Congress was nowhere near as penurious as you suggest.

BILL GREEN
New York, May 20, 1997
The writer represented New York's 14th Congressional District, 1978-93.

C.I.A., Drugs and Denial

To the Editor:

The couched denial by John M. Deutch, the former Director of Central Intelligence, of C.I.A. involvement in drug dealing (Op-Ed, May 18) is plausible.

And as we know, that is all that is required of it. Still, certain realities remain obvious. The United States is the leading importer of illicit drugs, which constitute one of the biggest cash commodities in world trade. It is not conceivable that this trade could flourish without some accommodation in government and finance.

It is also obvious that a policy aimed at discouraging drug use would be far different from the one we have. On the other hand, a policy designed to maximize drug profits would be just like the one we have. Plausible denials do nothing to diminish the evidence.

PETER KARLMAN
Rockfall, Conn., May 19, 1997

Private Schools Offer Illusion of Diversity

To the Editor:

When Bob Herbert (column, May 19) holds up an exclusive private school in Bridgehampton, N.Y., as an example of "real integration," we have come to a sad pass indeed.

Why would the founders of schools like Hayground, who want their children to "interact normally and regularly with youngsters from a variety of backgrounds," not send their children to public school?

The only thing missing from the "breath-takingly different backgrounds" at public schools might be families like those who founded the private schools.

In creating the carefully "inclusive" exclusive atmosphere of a private school, there is an illusion of diversity that can be self-serving. And the community is ill served because some of the best and brightest minority students are removed from the public sector, where they can serve as role models to all.

Mr. Herbert refers to Hayground's "splendid and courageous mission." But if the participants in all private schools devoted the same energy, creativity, monies and other resources to local public schools, it would surely be the best way to end what he calls the "relentless hostility and suspicion that saturate our daily lives."

STEVEN PEIFFER
SHEILA PEIFFER
Southampton, N.Y., May 19, 1997

We Have Our Own 'Elgin Marbles' to Return

To the Editor:

Karl E. Meyer observes the Elgin Marbles in Britain's eyes ("Let Greece Have the Marbles," Editorial Notebook, May 18) but overlooks the obelisk in the United States.

Cleopatra's Needle in New York's Central Park was extorted from a reluctant Khedive of Egypt, and his even more reluctant people, by an American consul general in 1878. Is it not time for this national treasure to be returned to its rightful owners?

This splendid initiative could soon become a policy. Many other countries would undoubtedly claim from the United States the parts of their artistic heritages lost to them during more than a century of our cultural imperialism. If not, they should be urged positively to do so. The galleries of our museums would be cleaned out, but so would our consciences.

DOUGLAS NEWTON
New York, May 20, 1997
The writer is a curator emeritus of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Copies on Exhibit

To the Editor:

Henry S. Bond's suggestion that the Elgin Marbles be copied by the British before being returned to

Greece ("Virtual Elgin Marbles," letter, May 20), since today's copying technology is perfect, prompts the question, Why return the originals?

Why not return copies? Copies are all you see in today's polluted art centers of the world: the horses on St. Mark's facade in Venice and Michelangelo's "David" before the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence are just two examples. If the Elgin Marbles are returned to Greece, we can only hope they will be kept safely indoors.

PIERO WEISS
Baltimore, May 20, 1997

Who Are Persecutors?

To the Editor:

A. M. Rosenthal protests the persecution of Christians by the Chinese Government ("Facing the Deniers," column, May 20).

However, in the larger scheme of things, it is the religionists of the world who are in the ascendancy, and it is they who are doing most of the persecuting. This will surely usher in a new Dark Age for all of us.

We are in great need of secular governments that resist religious tyranny.

E. STONE
New York, May 22, 1997

Fashion's Free Thinkers Use Their Power for Ill

To the Editor:

Your May 20 front-page article on the death by drug overdose of a photographer at the heart of the so-called heroin-chic style of fashion photography is a sad commentary on our fashion industry.

While the music and film industries have, as you say, been fighting drug abuse, the people in the fashion business are trying to make having no standards at all their standard. They have coined the phrase "sexual empowerment" as an excuse to mainstream public nudity for women. They declare that mink is O.K. again and think that years of work by animal welfare advocates are meaningless.

They dress 13-year-old girls in outfits that only a few years ago were reserved for prostitutes; 16-year-old boys are put on posters in provocative poses. We are supposed to declare that fashion industry people are artists and free thinkers who are not to be held to the rules of even the most basic, civilized behavior.

Those of us baby boomers who fought to loosen the restrictions of society are not pruders, nor do we want censorship. But we have to

wonder who hires the editors and photographers who allow the most decadent among the fashion designers to set the tone of what is not a small cottage industry but one that shapes how we see ourselves and our children.

MAYA BELL
New York, May 21, 1997

Don't Suppress Art

To the Editor:

The reported backlash against the so-called heroin-chic style of fashion photography (front page, May 20) is an understandable reaction to an insidious problem. But while the deleterious effects of heroin use are deplorable, they should not be used to justify the suppression of artistic expression.

BEN STRASSER
Brooklyn, May 20, 1997

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Journal

FRANK RICH

Seen But Not Heard

Saturday night audiences on Broadway are notoriously overfed and slow to settle down. The one at the Belasco Theater a couple of weeks ago was at first no exception, but it was soon caught up in the story of a young woman who makes a grave mistake — she lies on a legal document — and yet refuses to accept her excessive punishment quietly. By the end, when the heroine walks out on her home, husband and children rather than surrender her own idea of right and wrong, the full house was as still as a full house can get. The only sound as the curtain fell was of audience members — women and men, but especially women — crying.

The play was "A Doll's House," as acted by the extraordinary Janet McTeer in a production certain to be celebrated at the Tony Awards next Sunday. But I don't think that Ibsen's 1879 war horse is speaking so deeply to Americans right now just because it is so brilliantly done. To the surprise of its audience — me included — a play that might seem a dated feminist tract (and is usually performed accordingly) catches you by the throat even at a time when all the big feminist battles have supposedly been won.

Ms. McTeer's Nora — strong but confused, neither saint nor victim nor martyr — certainly provides an ur-text for the drama of Kelly Flinn. "A Doll's House" explains just why so many Americans sympathized with the Air Force's first female B-52 bomber pilot even while recognizing that she, like Nora, was guilty of a lie: the moralistic official overreaction didn't fit the crime. When Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader not heretofore known for his feminist views, called the Air Force's treatment of Lieutenant Flinn unfair, he was bowing to the sentiments of his constituents as surely as Ms. McTeer bows to the cheers of her audience each night.

The same political equation that Senator Lott recognized when he seized a cameo role in the Flinn drama will soon surface as well in one of the longest-running tragedies of our time — the abortion debate. Indeed, should the pro-choice forces ultimately lose the close, protracted fight over the "partial birth" ban — legislation so crude it is neither enforceable nor constitutional — that may be a political blessing in disguise. The real conflict will at last leap out of the wings and onto center stage. With the completely symbolic "partial birth" victory in hand, the pro-life forces will hubristically rush toward their actual goal — to ban most of the 99 percent-plus other abortions. The debate will inevitably shift its focus from fetuses to women in trouble and the men who make an overzealous cause of policing those women and their sex lives right into their doctors' offices.

The four long days of Senate debate on "partial birth" abortion offered a sneak preview. Nothing spoke more loudly than the fact that not a single female senator of either party — six Democrats, three Republicans — rose to speak in favor of Pennsylvania's Senator Rick Santorum's "partial birth" ban. (Only two of the nine, the Texas Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison and the Louisiana Democrat Mary Landrieu, voted for it.) The men who did yak on were often condescending to women — if they even deigned to note it is women who carry the fetuses. Mr. Santorum, who lovingly recounted the V.I.P. medical treatment his own wife got during a troubled pregnancy, portrayed less fortunate women who choose late-term abortions as dupes easily swayed by "genetics counselors and others." Bill Frist of Tennessee dismissed any attempts to take the health of a mother into legislative consideration as a license for women to exploit such a "loophole" with their womanly depressions.

Will this stuff play when it emerges from the C-Span shadows into prime time? No better, I suspect, than the Air Force's vilification of its former B-52 pinup, Against a Republican pro-choice Senator like Olympia Snowe of Maine, the Santorums and Frists of the gender-gap party look awfully small. Speaking on the Senate floor of American women who face "a direct frontal assault" on their health from the Santorum bill, Senator Snowe implored: "These aren't faceless individuals. These are human beings."

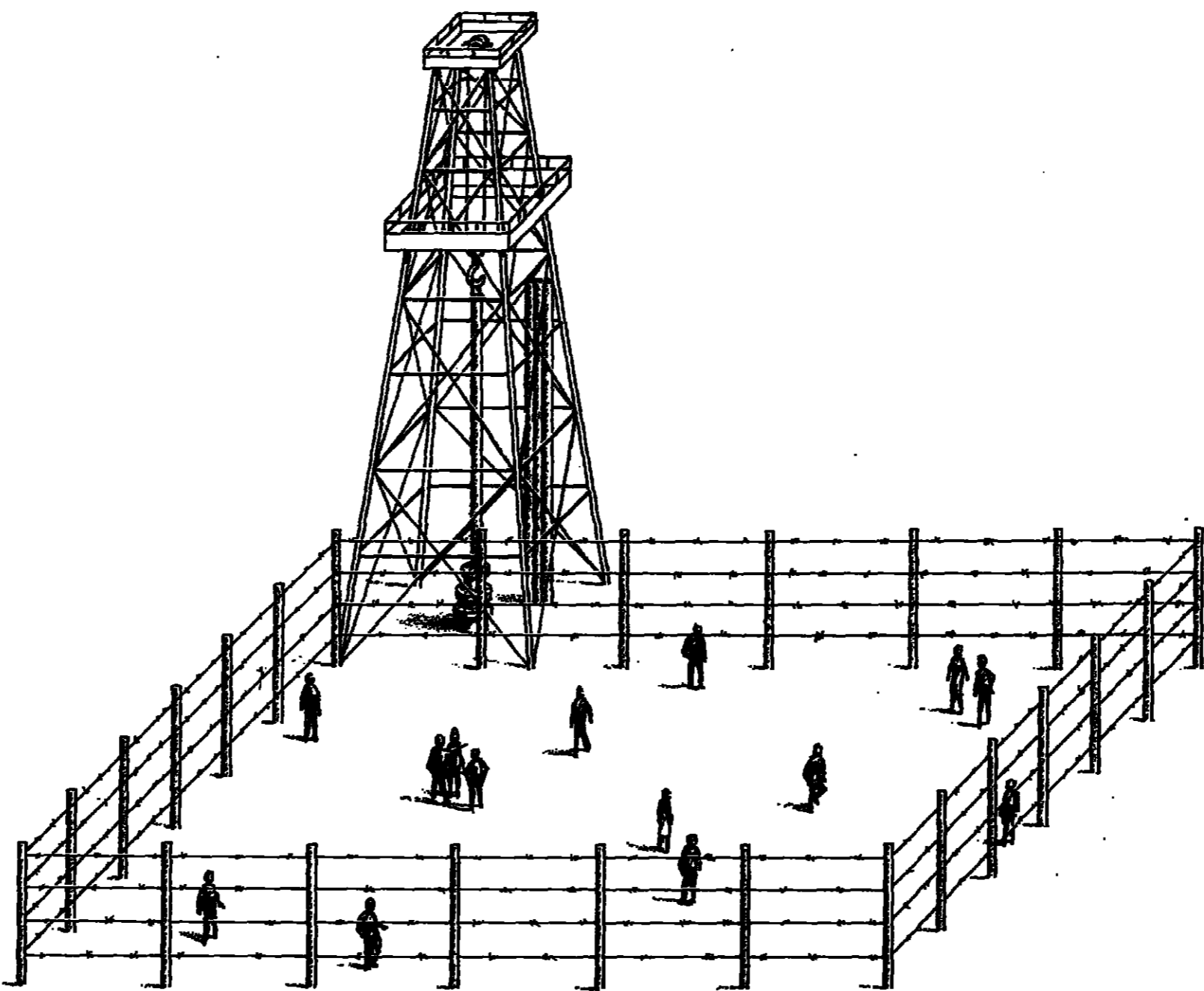
Like all the Noras and Kelly Flinns who came before them, these human beings will be heard.

The men of the Senate build a doll's house.

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In Nigeria, the Price for Oil Is Blood

By Nadine Gordimer

July 1994. The Oil Daily reports that Gen. Sani Abacha, chairman of Nigeria's Provisional Ruling Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, has responded to strikes by oil workers and demands for increased revenue-sharing with local communities "by declaring the death penalty on anyone who interferes with the government's efforts to 'revitalize' the oil industry."

November 1995. General Abacha carries out this intention by putting to death the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others who had expressed concern for the welfare of the Ogoni people and the depredation of its environment in relation to the exploitation of oil.

March 1997. General Abacha's military Government charges Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian Nobel Prize laureate in literature and longtime influential advocate of the Ogoni cause, with the capital offense of treason. General Abacha is consistent — his declaration has not been amended in any way by his other declarations — that Nigeria is on the path to democracy, which will culminate in civilian rule in October 1998. The penalty on the head of Wole Soyinka is the death penalty.

In the intervening years, the questions of freedom of the press and expression in Nigeria have become an issue for Nigerians and for those of us who have never set foot in that country but who know that if, in what is optimistically called the global village, the lines go down in one street the power failure is the responsibility of all inhabitants.

Many journalists have been detained; some have disappeared — dead or alive. At times, the issue of press freedom has appeared to be separate from that of the death penalty carried out on individuals who have taken up the case of the Ogoni people.

But the issues are one: While some journalists have fallen foul of the regime for criticizing aspects of its rule other than its oil industry, an overwhelming number have succumbed because of their reporting and criticism of the conditions under which the oil fields operate in Ogoni, particularly in the Government's joint venture with Royal Dutch/Shell.

In Nigeria you can be put to death for placing humble human well-being as a value even equal to, let alone above, the value of oil profits. The price of life: it was exacted from Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others; it is General Abacha's intention that it should be exacted from Wole Soyinka.

Mr. Soyinka is in exile, but this certainly does not mean that he is safe. He has fame and eloquent conviction to insure him a hearing wherever in the world he speaks out, as he will, against the abuses of human rights in Nigeria. And there are Nigerians living all over the world among whom General Abacha might find some willing to carry out his declared death penalty. There is the live danger that what is implied by the penalty being imposed on someone in exile is a secular farwa.

There can be no illusion over the importance of the oil industry to Ni-

geria. The oil fields supply 80 percent of its revenue. The country and its people need to tap their bountiful resource. But to buy Nigeria's oil under the conditions that prevail is to buy oil in exchange for blood. Other people's blood; the exaction of the death penalty on Nigerians.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas K. Gandhi and now High

The Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka is not even safe in exile.

Commissioner for India in my country, South Africa, said the other day: "The task of regarding the equal development of all humankind as one vehicle, one journey, remains to be completed."

Shell, oil, the tyranny of the Abacha regime, this is our business, our governments', our international organizations' — our journey.

Because I am a South African addressing Americans, when it comes to the action or lack of it on the part of various countries, I find myself focusing on our two countries. But there is a more cogent reason, I believe. Yours is the most powerful country in the world today; ours is the country with the highest moral stature, as represented by President Nelson Mandela and our transition from an appalling human rights record, under apartheid, to democratic freedom through reconciliation of enemies. What are these two countries doing about the violent repression of human rights in Nigeria?

The Congress of South African Writers demonstrated in 1995 before the Nigerian Consulate in Johannesburg against the travesty of justice in the trial and execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, and were joined by trade unionists, representatives of the African National Congress and members of civil rights groups. The consulate turned the water sprinklers on us.

But this did not dampen convictions. A Support Nigeria Committee was formed, and campaigned successfully to inform the public and encourage government action; it has not reacted with the same energy, so far, on the issue of Mr. Soyinka. The various associations of journalists, though highly active on issues of press freedom and human rights in our country, have not applied themselves in any significant way to the fate of their colleagues in Nigeria.

What has the South African Government done? After the executions of November 1995, President Mandela's immediate and vociferous condemnation of this gross violation of human rights led the British Commonwealth Heads of Government to suspend Nigeria from membership. Later, Mr. Mandela called upon Nigeria's major trading partners, including the United States, to impose sanctions on Nigeria. He met with no success.

So far as our own continent is concerned, in 1996 Mr. Mandela acknowledged that "Africa is not speaking with one voice" on Nigeria. The Southern Africa Development Community and the Organization of African Unity have been cautious about any "interference" in brother African states. Representatives

from countries in West Africa and the United Nations Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, made a case for soft-pedaling on Nigeria on grounds that Nigeria is responsible for law and order in Sierra Leone and Liberia by contributing a large peacekeeping force there.

South Africa, apparently discouraged by the lack of success in unilateral action, even coming from the unchallenged moral authority of Mr. Mandela, became less outspoken. The South African Government has now taken up a multilateral approach through its membership in the Commonwealth and on the U.N. Human Rights Commission, which has been trying to get General Abacha to agree, without imposing restrictive conditions, to a fact-finding mission. South Africa recently hosted a pan-African meeting on the establishment of an African Court on Human and People's Rights, which the O.A.U. Council on Ministers is expected to consider in June.

Both Mr. Mandela and South Africa's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alfred Nzo, have publicly condemned the actions against Mr. Soyinka and 15 others. And at a Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva in April, South Africa displayed a resurgence of its independent spirit by breaking ranks with 14 other countries and voting to put Nigeria under special U.N. scrutiny for its human rights abuses. This opposition to General Abacha's savage continuing assault on human rights, human life, needs to be determinedly pursued to set an example for African states that are shamefully hanging back from their responsibilities.

In the United States, the Government "strongly condemned" the executions of Mr. Saro-Wiwa and others in 1995, and the way in which the victims were condemned outside the judicial system. President Clinton banned military sales to Nigeria, and extended the current ban on visas to include all "who actively formulate, implement or benefit from policies that impede Nigeria's transition to democracy." The United States con-

The United States has been stronger on rhetoric than action lately.

tinued to oppose International Monetary Fund loans, credits and debt relief for Nigeria.

In 1996, however, the United States, like other countries, was stronger on rhetoric than action. Congressional hearings were held in May of last year on a bill to codify the sanctions against Nigeria, but it never went to a vote. While Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck visited Nigeria in June 1996 and noted "a steady deterioration in the human rights situation" since 1993, and the United States issued strong condemnations of military rule and human rights violations, no steps were taken to put such statements into effect.

In January 1997, the State Department's spokesman, Nicholas Burns, reiterated "grave concern" over continuing and new detentions of Nigerians. Then came March 12 and the death penalty charges against Wole

Soyinka and 15 other opponents of the military Government. The United States urged General Abacha to insure that "any trials be fair and open and held in civilian courts with those charged receiving complete access to representation of their choice, and to their doctors and their families."

In March, the European Union's resolution on Nigeria was presented to Congress thus: "As you consider your policy activities re Nigeria, please consider the Abacha regime's clear intention in local elections ... to exclude opposition groups from participation." The resolution urged the Commonwealth to expel Nigeria at the next meeting of its heads of state in October, and called on the European Council to embargo Nigerian oil and freeze financial assets held by the Government, its officials and their families.

So far this year, the total official response from the Clinton Administration amounts to support for a U.N. fact-finding mission on Nigeria. There is no more than talk in Congress about introducing a bill to codify executive sanctions against Nigeria already in place.

It seems it is left to civil rights groups to act as best they can, not only on behalf of Wole Soyinka but also on the wider, continuing issue of the Ogoni people and oil.

For the PEN American Center, Amnesty International and environmental groups such as Friends of the Earth, the equal development of all humankind is one journey on which our companions cannot be abandoned in the ditches of military rule. A recent open letter on Wole Soyinka's situation, signed by eight of his Nobel Prize companions, is intended to challenge the United States Government and Americans in general.

PEN's concerns are not confined to the special interest of writers. PEN Center USA West has published a remarkable report on the relationship between Shell and Nigeria that put questions to the company and published their answers. PEN calls on Shell to insure full access to the Ogoni area for journalists and international observers as a necessary condition for Shell's return to operations in the area, which it left in 1993 because of workers' actions and international protest.

PEN also asks Shell to issue a statement regretting its post-execution criticisms of international organizations which had sought to prevent Mr. Saro-Wiwa's execution.

In the past, while generally lamenting human rights abuses, Shell has excused itself from connection with the abuses of the Abacha Government. Last year, Shell produced a "Plan for Ogoni," committing itself to clean up oil spills and underwrite development within the community. Yet at a meeting this month, it defeated a shareholders' motion that demanded outside auditors to determine whether Shell follows its own rules.

It is direct measures by governments, the United Nations, Unesco, the European Union, the O.A.U. — the formations of political power — that are essential to put a stop to all abuses of flesh, mind and spirit in Nigeria. When the world changes the oil in the luxury vehicle of democratic freedom, it must make sure that oil does not come from the Ogoni of Nigeria at the price of their exploitation, and at the price of the lives of people like Ken Saro-Wiwa and Wole Soyinka.

Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Air Force Blues

WASHINGTON

"Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman" is one of those phrases that sounds as if it comes out of Kipling. It says that more is expected of the upper military class. It holds that an elite given the privileges of rank must live up to the leader's burden of higher standards.

In these egalitarian times, we respond: How infuriatingly snooty. The phrase itself is surely outdated: Even the sign on the lavatory door reads "Men," not "Gentlemen," because modern women felt put down by the sign that said "Ladies." That's why the sexually integrated military has not updated its phrase to "an officer and a lady."

The point we civilians miss in the Air Force's discharge of First Lieut. Kelly Flinn, the 26-year-old B-52 pilot, is the tradition of class in military life.

That undemocratic tradition separating the leadership from the rank and file can only be justified in a free country by its unambiguous purpose: It helps instill discipline, respect for command authority, the need to follow the most agonizing orders in combat.

Fortunately, entry into the military's upper class is based on merit and lifelong dedication and even bravery, not on wealth or birth or race. But part of that merit is the ability to set an example for subordinates in department, judgment and especially in obeying orders.

Did Lieutenant Flinn set a seemingly expected of a combat commander? She admitted she did not. She rejected orders to end her open affair with a female airman's civilian husband, who she did not know until too late was a cad, rat and fink.

Early on, a sensible superior officer should have taken the pilot aside and told her to shape up or she would be shipped out to a base near the Arctic Circle. Career-threatening transfer is how the military traditionally leans on, while taking care of, its own — of all sexes and ranks.

Instead, the Air Force at first focused on an adultery charge, an infraction of the military code that, if enforced in civilian law, would incinerate half the population being defended. That legal-moral policing led this lovesick young officer down the path of deception and insubordination. A Chief of Staff then undermined military justice at a Senate hearing by all but ordering a court-martial to convict her.

Lieutenant Flinn wisely caved in

Sex and the single pilot.

and accepted the punishment of a less-than-honorable discharge. She'll be embraced as a victim of sexism or denounced as a home-wrecker, but most of us who remember being fools for love in our 20's will forgive and forget. Our officer corps is relieved that orders are still orders. (The Air Force brass thinks it dodged a publicity missile, but wait till her book and the movie.)

Should adultery remain a crime in the military code from here to eternity? The sad experience of a promising officer who flew off course demonstrates that legislating morality works as badly in the military as it does in civilian life. Human relationships seldom go by the book. Criminalizing an action as widely practiced as it is roundly deplored leads to selective prosecution and disrespect for authority.

If the Defense Department applies a privacy policy of "don't ask, don't tell" to gays, it should be equally applicable to sex among straights.

The Department of Justice spokesman says the source in my last column is "flat wrong" to pass word of conflicting news advice to Attorney General Reno from career professionals about the need to appoint Independent Counsel in the spreading Asian Connection case. Denial reported; time will tell.

However, I was flat wrong to castigate ABC News for broadcasting an audiotape of a prosecutor seeming to abridge a potential defendant's rights by saying in closed Federal court that Hillary Clinton "could" be indicted.

ABC producer Josh Gerstein displayed admirable journalistic enterprise in buying the tape, quite legitimately, from the court clerk for \$15, as soon as the proceedings were unsealed to allow the White House to appeal its privilege denial to the Supreme Court. (I wish he had explained that resourceful technique in his story.)

The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, it turns out, did not realize the broadcast precedent it made possible in releasing tapes rather than transcripts. Next come videotapes; thus does freedom of the electronic media lurch forward.

THE ARTS

McCartney May Be Called Sir Paul, but He's Still a Beatle

By BOB SPITZ

ON a recent afternoon in the kitchen of a quaint 17th-century mill house overlooking the English Channel, there was a sense of eventfulness. The room was in rigorous disarray. Newspapers spilled across a red leather banquette, bowls of snacks littered the Formica table; a stack of tea canisters teetered on the counter. Only the calendar, thumb-tacked to a shelf over the sink, suggested order. Its squares were filled with mundane engagements that mirror everyday family life — aside from one that was conspicuously circled. The date was March 11, and printed in neat, boxy letters was the reminder "Buck Palace."

The odds that Paul McCartney would blow his appointment with the Queen are a long shot. The promise of knighthood to the former pesky Beatle (the band's first appearance before Her Majesty at the 1963 Royal Variety Show produced John Lennon's now-legendary appeal: "Would the people in the cheaper seats clap your hands? And the rest of you, if you'd just rattle your jewelry") is a delicious paradox. It was the Beatles, after all, who were anointed gurus of upheaval at a time when the collapse of the Empire was lashed to the decline of a generation's morals.

Even now, as he ponders this new milestone, there is considerable tongue in his cheek. "I think of myself as a feet-on-the-ground, down-to-earth person," he says, curling catlike into a couch on the second floor of the renovated cottage, which is minutes from the small estate on which he lives. "So when something like this comes along, it slightly blows your cover."

Of all the Beatles, the 54-year-old Mr. McCartney, whose new album, "Flaming Pie," will be released on Tuesday, has handled megastardom with level-headedness and acumen. He is a tireless self-promoter, one whose outspokenness and well-timed endeavors have positioned him as the keeper of the Beatles' flame. Beyond that he is sustained at the forefront of his field by a solo recording career, orchestral projects, political causes and a music publishing company that owns one of the most important popular-song catalogues and contributes to his estimated net worth of \$600 million.

For all his shrewdness in managing his career, though, Mr. McCartney appears genuinely unnerved by the royal title. When an occasion to try it on arises, his face flushes with boyish excitement and a trace of embarrassment. Etiquette demands that he be addressed as Sir Paul, but an attempt to follow protocol draws an awkward reaction from him.

"No, you don't; no, you don't," he says, wagging a scornful finger. Then, swallowing a bashful grin, he reconsiders. "You can if you want — but you don't have to."

Sir Paul. To some, it's as preposterous as putting Elvis Presley on a postage stamp. Now, more than 30 years after uttering the mantralike yeah-yeah-yeah, Paul McCartney has metamorphosed into a Knight of the British Empire. It all comes at a time of personal reflection — about his family, his talent, his country and, not the least of his concerns, the renaissance of the Beatles.

"The stuff still stands up," he says. The stuff in question is the Beatles' catalogue, which evolved over a period of only seven years and remains a fixture in popular culture, as the success of the "Anthology" retrospective showed last year. Mr. McCartney, eager to promote his new album, has invited a visitor into his private office and refuge — a cheerful, wood-paneled room in a garret above the mill, with a view of sheep grazing in a meadow. But in a matter of moments he invokes the Beatles, over and over again.

"It's difficult not to believe in the Beatles, especially when you're one of them," he says. "Now, I'm so proud of what we did." He says it took him years to come to terms with

the past. There were too many business entanglements, too many egos bruised in the untangling.

The title of Mr. McCartney's new album, "Flaming Pie," may now revive some ill will, especially in Yoko Ono, the widow of John Lennon. The title sprang from a joke Lennon used to play on people who asked him to explain the origin of the band's name. "It came in a vision," John would tell gullible listeners. "A man appeared on a flaming pie and said unto me, 'From this day forth you are the Beatles — with an a.'"

"Anyone who hears the words 'flaming pie' or 'unto me' knows it's a joke," Mr. McCartney says. "There are still a lot of things we have to fudge because of compromise. If we don't all agree on a story, somebody has to give in. And Yoko kind of insisted that John had to have full credit for the name. She believed he had a vision. And it's left us with sort of a bad taste in our mouths. So when I was looking for a rhyme for 'cry' and 'sky,' I thought, 'pie' — 'flaming pie.' Wow!"

THERE is no telling what Ms. Ono thinks of his musical tribute to Lennon's gag (she declined to be interviewed), but it is unlikely she'll enjoy hearing Mr. McCartney sing, "I'm the man on the flaming pie."

Elsewhere there are olive branches embedded in the tracks of "Flaming Pie." One is the participation of Ringo Starr, who plays drums and sings on several selections and collaborated on one song, "Really Love You." Another is the ballad "Little Willow," a gem about the untimely death of a friend.

Only after prodding does Mr. McCartney reveal that the friend is Maureen Starkey, Mr. Starr's first wife, who died in 1994 at the age of 47. "That very afternoon I wanted to write a song, and this just popped out," he says. "I knew their kids would be missing her a lot and thought this might help."

Mr. McCartney has said of his songwriting that the lyrics are non-specific. "They don't always have to be about someone," he says. And yet a ballad as intensely romantic as "Some Days," which appears on the new album, almost begs to have its inspiration revealed. When it is suggested that the song is about his wife, Linda, Mr. McCartney demurs, seemingly taken aback by the question. "Well, I think so," he says. Reminded of a line from the song — "Some days I look across the room and can't believe you're mine" — he seems overtaken by memory. "Right," he confesses. "Well, something like that. That's, um, that's certainly about Linda. Yeah."

Of all his accomplishments, Mr. McCartney points to his family as his proudest. His 28-year marriage remains one of the sturdiest in a profession littered by broken relationships. If Linda McCartney, a photographer, has been maligned for her lack of musical ability, she receives too little credit for rearing four children, who, by all accounts, are unspoiled and well-grounded.

Heather McCartney, 35, who is Linda's child from a previous marriage, is a potter; Stella, 26, has recently taken over the French fashion house Chloé, replacing Karl Lagerfeld; Mary, 28, works for her parents, and James, 20, a guitarist, makes his debut on his father's new album.

"I always said I wasn't going to push my kids into show business," Mr. McCartney says. "They all went through state schools, they've not known a lot of rich kids, and we encouraged them to be academic."

"See, we lived very basically for all the fame, trying to keep some normality. Initially, we had a little place in Scotland — two bedrooms, four kids. Then we came here and lived in a great little two-bedroom house. We just liked the idea of the kids being on top of us, watching TV around the fire. So we're lucky. They are really good kids; they've got big hearts."

Mr. McCartney has decided to

shift courses now to concentrate on pursuits outside the rock arena. For one thing, he says, he won't promote "Flaming Pie" in the traditional way. In the past, he followed each album with a world concert tour. Now, he says, he is stopping — not taking a break from live performances, but stopping.

"Last time I went on the road, it made me think: it's about time I get a life here," he says. "You know, you're sitting in a Holiday Inn in St. Louis and you think, 'I've got a terrific house, and the garden would be lovely this time of year.' Enough's enough."

And yet the prospect of retiring from the stage seems out of character. As the Beatles were heading for a breakup, he was the only one who got road fever and begged his bandmates to perform again. (The Beatles had last toured in 1966.) And for years afterward, with his post-Beatles band Wings, he craved a live audience.

"I like to play," he says, "but now I don't feel like it. At all. I'm just enjoying being at home a lot, being productive in other ways."

The place where he seemingly feels secure enough to shed his Beatle armor is in the recording studio. The Beatles cut most of their albums at EMI Studios on Abbey Road, in London, but as Mr. McCartney sought refuge away from the spotlight, he built his own 48-track studio by adding onto the mill. It is here that he recorded many of his solo efforts, as well as the six albums with Wings. And it is here that he becomes Paul McCartney, the musician's musician.

The transformation is apparent the moment he pushes through the door. Inside the studio he turns childlike, almost giddy, as he bounces from instrument to instrument. "This is memory lane," he announces, parking momentarily in front of the mellotron used on "Strawberry Fields Forever," then proceeding to the harmonium used on "We Can Work It Out."

Mr. McCartney has long been recognized as the musical force behind the great Beatles records, an innovator and virtuoso on a wide range of instruments. The essence of his craft is in the mechanics — detailed melody lines, inventive counterpoints, dramatic, linear phrasing.

Twenty-seven years after the Beatles broke up, he used the same formula to produce the 14 songs on "Flaming Pie." He says he came up with the material spontaneously over several days without intending it to become an album. Because of the "Anthology" project, he says: "I was told by the record company that they wouldn't need me to put out anything for the next couple years. I thought, 'Ye of little faith. But the album just came; it just kind of

Paul McCartney has a new album, a royal title and time to reflect.

flowed."

One might expect him to rely on his trademark pop-song foundations: the structured upbeat melodies, the verbal flair. Instead, he resurrected a game that he and Lennon had played in which they wrote songs within an allotted two-hour deadline. In other cases, he abandoned structure altogether in favor of loose, bluesy jam sessions with Mr. Starr and Steve Miller, the guitarist and singer whose own band produced a string of hits in the '70s and '80s.

Mr. Miller says the album marks a progression for Mr. McCartney in studio technique, but he admits that he was disappointed by some of the material that ended up on it. "I was hoping we'd get away from the pop field," Mr. Miller says, "doing things that sound like 'Band on the Run' outtakes. He's always written songs like that. He's so good at it."

"But I was listening to his classical work and was surprised how well developed it was," Mr. Miller goes on. Mr. Miller says that he implored Mr. McCartney to take the pop songs off the album but that Mr. McCartney resisted. He had no interest in reinventing himself.

"It's a shame when Paul McCartney just indulges himself like that," says Timothy White, the editor of Billboard. "He's an innately gifted guy who doesn't challenge himself; he's always been lazy. And it gets tricky when you let someone with his potential do any blessed thing he wants."

A few McCartney projects in the works do veer from the well-trod road, however. One is a documentary about the mill, which he'll narrate later this year. Another is a campaign to endow a Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts in the building where he and George Harrison attended school as boys. And his symphony, "Standing Stone," will have its premier at Carnegie Hall on Nov. 19.

Then, of course, there is this knighthood business. As he sees it, he now has a platform of sorts from



Paul McCartney on the beach near his home in Sussex, England — The keeper of the Beatles flame.

which to express his opposition to Britain's forthcoming membership in the European Economic Community, a prospect that distresses him mightily. "I view this partnership as a bummer," he says. Citing the recent breakup of Apple, his ill-fated

enterprise with the Beatles, Mr. McCartney says, "I've just got my freedom, and now my country wants to throw in with these people." He says a common European governing body, currency, passport and trade union would threaten Britain's cul-

tural identity. "We'll then have a common flag, so the Union Jack means nothing," he says, "and one common anthem." He slumps against his seat cushion. "Actually, that was what got me — the anthem." □

JEWELRY JEST

BY CATHY MILLHAUSER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- Where heads are put together
- Skater Harding and others
- "— behold!"
- Tulle's schools
- Popeye's son
- Founding editor of the O.E.D.
- How jewelers get absolution?
- Per
- "Le Comte Ory" composer
- Cut forage
- Super Bowl XXXIX winners, informally
- Midwestern jewelry article?
- Cut forests
- Ends
- Mechanical method
- Character actress Tessie
- Oscar-winning "Love Story" composer
- More than big
- Tamperer hamperer
- Patron of jewelers?
- Exudation
- Fills the cracks
- "Snow White" dwarf
- Notorious Bugs
- Subjects of planning
- Actress of "Fame" fame
- Pippi Longstocking creator Lindgren
- Green
- Where crazy jewels end up?
- Powers that be
- Section of a pas de deux
- Diamond great
- "Fansel and Gretel" role
- Stale
- Mustachioed detective
- Run
- Bend
- Jewelry disaster?
- Surprise cries
- "Picnic" playwright's kin
- Canals
- Second-oldest country in the Western Hemisphere
- Adenauer, a k a Der
- Position
- Family man
- Part of a jeweler's education, with "he"?
- Sal and others
- Kind of diagram
- Comeback
- Banderillo's target
- Jeweler's ultimatum?
- Late-night name
- "Chicago Hope" setting: Abbr. Ford
- Biblical barterer
- Platinum item of jewelry?
- Tolkien tree creatures
- Plugging away
- Wide expanse
- Acting family of TV and film
- Smudge
- Help at the jeweler's?
- Over
- Imparts
- Peachy-keen
- O.T. book
- Driving hazard
- German river
- Perry Como's "— Loves Mambo"
- Gateway Arch-itect, to friends
- Floodgate
- Song words before gal or shadow
- Mariner's need
- Fictional Italian town
- Others: Sp.
- Acad.
- Hair applications
- Ugandan with abandon
- A lot
- Turkish title
- Prefix with dactyl
- Preference
- Grammy-winning Ford
- Tennyson heroine
- Swedish soprano Birgit
- Land subjugated by 106-Down
- "The Last Days of Pompeii" heroine
- Washer setting
- Honors
- 100 agorot
- Writer famous for locked-room mysteries
- Roman title
- "The Hobbit" hero Baggins
- Opening
- Do maintenance work on
- Rubbish
- Anatomical roots
- Gri
- Word in Morris code?
- Ahab's father
- Showed disdain
- Shoe-touting bulldog
- Tours seasons
- Figurative brink
- Pro
- Bar measures: Abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACDC ANATL HALLICE HAD
 RAIL DELON ACSTON ERB
 UNDEERDSGEGSTOTOWN RHO
 ANITA ALESOS DOPELE
 BANANA RATES DEBACLE
 SERPER ILLAC FELLLO
 CASPER CLARKGABLE MAJ
 AVE LEVIE ARAS BERR
 MEND GARYCOOPER GESTE
 PRIORRESS OUTER CORTEZ
 COUNTRY CHITS SLOTH
 CHALEY BLADE SHEPHERD
 HONED DEANARTHUR ACEE
 ANDY BANG IONIC RAL
 LARREN GANAPRA CAJOLE
 ANDREWS ALLOT ROOBY
 BELLES INDUS HARENS
 AGA IRISANDERFULHIRE
 TEC NERMAN EMMITS ORAL
 EVE GREENS RUSSE WARY



Mr. McCartney with his wife Linda, on the day they met in 1967.

An independent voice

Elias Freij resigned last week after 30 years as mayor of Bethlehem. Jon Immanuel asks him why.

Elias Freij, who became mayor of Bethlehem when Golda Meir was prime minister, prided himself on doing things his way. Now he has resigned suddenly with a two-line note he handed in after his last cabinet meeting as Palestinian Authority tourism minister.

The official reason for his sudden resignation is age and health. At age 80, his health — he has frequently been hospitalized with a heart condition — would seem to be reason enough.

Apparently not. "There were some differences and for my self-respect I preferred to resign," he said.

Those differences are not clear, and in an interview he said he could not be precise because they were both personal and political differences with Arafat.

"We are not a very cohesive

before the celebrations marking 2,000 years since the birth of Bethlehem's most famous son.

"I am not so sure now there will be any well-arranged celebrations," he said.

Freij estimated that the PA "will need \$200 million to prepare the city, the roads, a cultural center and the bus terminal," not to mention hotel rooms to cater for the masses of Christians expected to flock to the event.

He makes clear he was the man to handle this job. "I had all these plans, ready for execution. I have really done my homework." And it is unlikely that any other Palestinian could rival him for contacts in the Christian world. "I had pledges from many countries." Now the question is whether they will honor their pledges to someone else.

AT HOME, shuffling in his slippers, the ex-mayor looks forward to writing his memoirs. He considers himself a statesman and not just the mayor of a small town. In many ways he was.

A photograph with US Senator Edward Kennedy in his hallway is inscribed by Kennedy: "To a brave fighter for Mideast peace." Another shows Freij in a seated tete-a-tete with then US secretary of state James Baker. A third shows a laughing Arafat with his arm around the shoulders of the stone-faced mayor. Another, the largest, is Freij's portrait framed in mother-of-pearl over the living-room door opposite a Palestinian flag on a pole, the way he might choose to be seen if he was the ruler of a small obedient country and his face was in every home.

Freij has never shied away from risks.

During the intifada, Freij spoke openly about making a peace initiative with Israel. Arafat got so angry he threatened him with "a bullet in the chest." But Freij made his peace with Arafat. "I never reminded him of that remark. The best thing is to forgive and forget."

However, Freij adds: "The moderate image I project is one reason for the difference between me and the Palestinian Authority."

Freij's decision to opt for peace



Freij: The moderate image I project is one reason for the difference between me and the Palestinian Authority. (David Rubinger)

so many years ago gave him special access to Israeli leaders. He met with Likud premier Menachem Begin who "came down from his office to the street where my car was parked" after a meeting. "He was a real leader," Freij has good words to say even about prime minister Yitzhak Shamir. "He was very cautious. People were surprised I met him. But he was a gentleman." He has hosted countless other leaders who used to stop in Bethlehem after visiting Jerusalem, but now head for Gaza and the Orient House.

As for Yitzhak Rabin, "He was in my house many times and we had many drinks together." Shimon Peres also visited.

Freij was alarmed by Oslo, but knows there is no going back.

Freij cannot see himself meeting Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

"He has yet to recognize that Israel is a part and parcel of the Middle East," he said.

The Har Homa project, in the area known by Palestinians as Jabal Abu Ghneim on one side of a bowl-shaped hollow directly overlooking

Bethlehem and neighboring Beit Sahur, is only a small part of the problem. The idea of a haredi community locked in perpetual view of these Arab villages seems incongruous. "I don't think Israel will build there," he said.

But he faults Palestinians for not having built there themselves. "It could have been done 20 years ago," he insisted.

For a man who always attempts to seek balance and seeks his friends in the West he has nothing but scorn for the US government today. "The credibility of the US government here is zero. My God, when the secretary of state, what's her name, speaks I don't understand her. She is biased towards Israel."

If Freij can be compared to anybody in Israeli politics it is Teddy Kolek, the mayor of Jerusalem who, like Freij, turned his city into an independent bastion of which he became the living symbol.

"Here I had the support of the people," he said. He considers Kolek a special friend and recalls telling him before the fateful election that he lost in his eighties after 28 years in office that he should not run again. "His wife Tamar and I tried to convince him not to run. Teddy made a mistake in running again. He should have resigned in his glory."

That may explain Freij's own decision now. Municipal elections are supposed to be held soon. But unlike the Israeli government which encouraged Kolek to run again, Freij's own government apparently has no intention of imploring him to stay.

Something else connects Freij and Kolek. Kolek, a secular cosmopolitan, fought to build Jerusalem in his own image, while the religious demography of the city turned inexorably against him and finally unseated him. Freij worked to keep his city Christian while it steadily became more Moslem.

But of one thing he is sure. The next mayor of Bethlehem will be a Christian "as long as one Christian remains in the city of Jesus Christ." As for his future, he plans to rest three weeks then visit the US where his daughter lives in Missouri with her American husband and two non-Arabic-speaking grandchildren.

Freij will return to his 18 other grandchildren, and if asked will advise his deputy Hanna Nasser, who is acting mayor, and anyone else who may seek his counsel.

Home Front

BIBR Syndrome

By Allison Kaplan Sommer

Don't ask me how often I've forgotten where I put my keys since the baby was born. Or how many times I've written the wrong date on a check. Or lost track of the age of the milk in the fridge and made myself a curdled coffee.

I simply can't remember how many times I've failed to remember things — all I know is that it seems to happen every day.

At least I know that I'm not alone. Many women (and even some men) have told me stories of reaching frightening levels of extreme absent-mindedness after they brought offspring into the world.

Some members of my circle of friends with new babies have even devised a name for this condition: Baby-Induced Brain Rot.

We have become adept at tossing the abbreviation around casually. For example, a friend will apologize "Sorry, I'm late — I locked myself out of the car, finally got it opened, and then when I was halfway to your house I realized that my shirt was on inside-out so I turned around to go home to change, and when I got home I discovered that I left the water running

of everyday life — how to lace up our shoes, how to operate the dishwasher, which supermarket has the best deals on ice cream. Another part is filled with real knowledge: math, science, history, literature — all that we acquired in order to earn our high-school and college degrees. And probably the largest amount of brain space is used to house the gigantic amount of basically useless information we hang onto — like the names of Elizabeth Taylor's former husbands, and the lyrics of every single Beatles' song.

Then we have a baby. And just as our houses become immediately cluttered with the stroller, crib, and other paraphernalia, our brain gets cluttered up, too.

There's so much to learn so quickly. How to breastfeed and/or prepare a bottle correctly, how to change a baby when he refuses to lie still, how exactly to rock the baby so that he stops screaming, how to mush up bananas to the proper consistency, how to set up the high chair without pinching your baby's or your own fingers, how to pack a diaper bag, and the words to "The Eensy Weensy Spider." All of these tiny little details add up to several megabytes of infor-

Some have devised a name for this condition: Baby-Induced Brain Rot.

and the bathroom was flooded so I had to clean that up." She'll then shrug nonchalantly. "BIBR. What can you do?"

Many believe that BIBR is a real medical condition, and in fact, a recent real-life scientific study in England found that many women's brains do physically shrink during pregnancy. I wonder whether the funds will ever be found for a more in-depth examination of the topic. After all, what is it going to accomplish in the end if we do find a link between childbirth and forgetfulness? I mean, we can't exactly stamp every member of the opposite sex with a warning label: Danger — procreation can be dangerous to your mental health!

My personal theory is not that we are genetically programmed to get stupider once we have kids; rather that our brain short-circuits temporarily from an overload of details during the first year of your child's life. You see, like the hard drive on a computer, the mind can probably only hold a certain amount of information. Some of it is occupied by the basic functions

of everyday life — how to process far too quickly, creating the short circuits that explain BIBR.

I've thought of a few ways that BIBR can be addressed (I probably thought of more ways, but I forgot them). One is to limit the number of child-care books you read. They all give you conflicting advice, so you waste time and brain capacity trying to figure out whether Dr. Spock or Penelope Leach is right...

Another is to always strive to do only one thing at a time — usually when I dress the baby, prepare lunch, and write E-mail at the same time. I end up putting the clothes on backwards, burning the soup, and accidentally sending missives to strangers in North Dakota.

I'm confident, though, that it eventually comes to pass that one's creaky head opens up and makes room for the new information to be absorbed. And I'm sure the exercise of the expansion that takes place must improve and strengthen a mother's brain in the long run. That's probably why we always know best.

CORRECTION
The lecture by Thich Nhat Hanh, mentioned in Thursday's paper, will be held at Ohel Shem in Tel Aviv. Tickets can be obtained by calling 03-5270821.

EARTHLY CONCERNS

Israel leads the world in protecting sharks



By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

The ecological balance of the world's oceans is being severely threatened by a boom in shark fishing, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Association in a report recently released by The Center for Marine Conservation in Washington, D.C. and by TRAFFIC, the wildlife monitoring arm of the World Wide Fund for Nature. According to the experts, catches of sharks, as well as skates and rays, jumped from 617,000 tons in 1985 to more than 730,000 tons in 1994, the last time catch statistics were compiled. But sharks suffer from consistent bad press, and no one seems interested in protecting them. It is clear that if steps are not taken soon, they may disappear. "And no one knows" says an FAO marine biologist, "just what the loss of one of the oceans' major predators will do to the overall ecology of these waters."

In Israel all sharks have enjoyed legal protection since the early 1970s. How it came to be that we enacted shark protection more than two decades before the matter ever received international attention is an interesting story.

About 26 years ago, it came to the attention of the Israel Nature Reserves Authority that a couple

of entrepreneurs had applied to the military governor of the Sinai, then under Israeli control, asking for a permit to bring a factory ship to Sharm el-Sheikh to "capture, kill and process shark meat." To

the horror of the INRA, it seemed that the military governor favored the plan and was about to permit it. Warning lights went on in the INRA. There was a situation where no one in the area had ever

been endangered or harmed by a shark, and all the experts they consulted agreed that killing sharks and dumping shark offal into the water would soon attract killer sharks to the area. This wasn't a prospect that the INRA wanted to face, but subsequent meetings with the military governor showed that his mind was made up. The shark factory ship was, in his eyes, a good idea.

To understand this attitude, one needs to remember that, for most people, sharks were associated with *Jaws*, and there was no single country in the world that protected this species. The chairman of the INRA, the late Avraham Yoffe, called a meeting of his advisers, Prof. Heinrich Mendelsohn of the Tel Aviv University's Zoological Department, Giora Eilana of the INRA (a zoologist), Dr. Uzi Paz, INRA biologist, and myself, an INRA wildlife specialist, who were all, in some way, considered by the establishment to be mavericks when it came to environmental issues. When the meeting was

over, it was decided that there was only one solution. Yoffe, as head of the INRA, had the power to decree any species a protected species, and this is what he did.

Now the whole world has jumped on the shark protection bandwagon, but I doubt if there are more than 50 people alive who know that Israel was the first.

STATE OF ISRAEL
Ministry of the Interior

Display of Voters Rolls for the Knesset and Local Authorities

Applications for Transfer to a Disabled Persons' Voting Station

Any person who, because of physical disability, is unable to vote at the voting station to which he is assigned may apply to the Minister of the Interior, requesting that his name be transferred to another voting list and to a voting station where arrangements are available for disabled voters.

The locations of these voting stations will be published on bulletin boards in all the local councils.

Application forms requesting transfer to a voting station with facilities for the disabled are available at the Population Registry Offices.

An application form will be posted to you, if you request this by phoning 09-7677249.

The completed and signed application form should be sent to the address given in the form. Applications must arrive before June 12, 1997.

Anyone who has submitted such an application in the past need not submit one again.

The Ministry of the Interior - At Your Service

STATE OF ISRAEL
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THE VOTERS' ROLL FOR THE KNESSET AND LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS

Dear Citizen,

1. In accordance with the Knesset Elections Law (Consolidated Version), 1969, and the Local Elections Law (Elections), 1965, the voters' roll has been drawn up and includes the name of every citizen and resident in a local authority whose 18th birthday falls no later than November 4, 1997.

The Voters' Roll will be on display from May 25, 1997 until June 2, 1997 at the Population Registry Offices

2. If your name does not appear in the roll or if there is an error in the registration of your name or address, a complaint can be submitted at any of the Population Registry Offices until June 12, 1997.

3. Anyone who has submitted a complaint and has received no reply by July 6, 1997 or is dissatisfied with the reply received may submit an appeal until July 16, 1997 to any District Court. No court fees will be required.

Remember to bring your Identity Card.

CHECK BY TELEPHONE WHETHER YOU ARE ENTITLED TO VOTE
Registration in the voters' roll can be checked by telephone at any of the following numbers from May 25 to June 1, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

02-6290211	03-5785682	06-6921474	06-6521384	07-6737612
02-6290241	03-5583852	06-6921424	06-6521472	08-9214711
02-6290245	03-5583853	06-6923423	06-6521492	08-9214713
03-9666196	03-6722107	06-6725502	06-6322934	08-9457727
03-9666350	03-6722106	06-6791723	06-6323128	08-8569775
03-9666482	04-9917523	06-6508515	07-6234113	08-8569776
03-9347602	04-8616224	06-6508535	07-6234211	09-8846442
03-9347603	04-8616227	06-6508536	07-6340661	09-8846491
03-5193283	04-8616232	06-6508536	07-6340662	09-9581070
03-5193307	04-8616233	06-6402222	07-6737165	09-9583112

Information will not be given at these numbers at any other time.

The Ministry of the Interior - At Your Service

BUSINESS

in brief

High-tech totals 34% of '96 industrial exports

Thirty-four percent of Israel's 1996 industrial exports, not including diamonds, came from the high-tech sector, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced yesterday. The figure represents a 20% growth over 1995. In 1988, 24% of total exports were technology products. The high-tech industry currently employs 42,000 people, one-third of whom are engineers.

Jennifer Friedlin

1st-quarter industrial product up monthly 0.1%

Industrial production rose by 0.1 percent a month on average through the first quarter, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. This data excludes the diamond industry. This follows rises in the growth pace in the first quarter last year (0.5% a month), the second (0.4%), the third quarter (0.1%) and a decline in growth in the last quarter (0.1%). There was a 0.2% decline in hours worked in the first quarter, a similar fall to that in the last quarter of 1996, the bureau said.

David Harris

Police round up illegal foreign workers

Eighty-five foreign workers without valid permits were caught during a police and Interior Ministry operation in Tel Aviv and Petah Tikva yesterday. The workers were all rounded up as they made their way to their places of employment. They originated from 13 countries, the largest numbers from Turkey (31), Romania (14), Colombia (8) and Nigeria (6).

Solel Boneh seeks NIS 79m. in share offer

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN
and news agencies

Solel Boneh Building & Infrastructure Ltd. said yesterday it will seek to raise NIS 79 million in an initial public offering on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange next month.

The IPO will consist of a combined issue of shares, convertible bonds and warrants.

Solel Boneh, the country's leading construction contractor, said it expects to raise a further NIS 130m. from the exercise of the warrants and conversion of the bonds - NIS 18m. in six months and NIS 112m. within two years.

"The Solel Boneh bourse issue presents another step in the plan for public offerings for the entire Housing & Construction group, after the sale of the parent company to its workers was completed successfully," Solel Boneh chairman Uzi Vardy-Zer said in a statement.

One of the projects the company is currently involved in is the building of the Hyatt Hotel at the Dead Sea. The project is expected to bring the company NIS 97m. in revenue.

The offering will value the company at a minimum of NIS 420m., Solel Boneh said. Its equity capital

at the end of March totalled NIS 160m. and it paid a dividend of NIS 33m. in 1996.

Solel Boneh, a subsidiary of the Housing & Construction Holding Co., had a net profit of NIS 60m. last year and more than NIS 21m. in the first quarter of 1997.

In 1995-96 it had annual turnover of NIS 1.85b., compared with NIS 1.45b. a year in 1993-94. Its order backlog, according to the company's prospectus, rose to NIS 1.9b. at the end of April from NIS 1.7b. at the start of 1996.

Workers own 72.7% of Housing & Construction, while 21.9% is owned by Arison Investments, the Israeli investment arm of businessman Ted Arison.

Solel Boneh had cancelled plans for an IPO in 1994, when share prices on the TASE plunged.

Its latest endeavor comes amid a revival of the new issues market in Tel Aviv following a rally in stock prices that began at the end of last year.

Many real estate companies are making offerings, while the government is raising NIS 1.2b. from shares and warrants in Bank Leumi and Israel Discount Bank.

Analysts estimate 15 to 20 companies are planning Tel Aviv offers.

Sharon: Israel, Jordan to negotiate railway links

By DAVID HARRIS

Jordan has agreed to begin negotiations with Israel for the construction of two railway links, with three international companies expressing interest in the work, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday.

The talks on joint infrastructure projects were made possible following the cabinet's approval on Friday of the transfer of an additional 50 million cubic meters of water to Jordan.

Last night, following a conversation with Crown Prince Hassan, Sharon announced that from today 72,000 cu.m. of water will be transferred on a daily basis, up to a total of 25 million cu.m.

This water will be taken from existing drinking supplies, including the Kimmeret.

It will take three years to construct the desalination plant that will supply the 50 million cu.m., the ministry said.

The proposed lines include the possibility of Jordanian Dead Sea chemicals being transported by train to Ashdod for export, rather than through Aqaba as at present.

There is also interest in operating a rail service between Aqaba and Eilat, as well as one northwards to Sodom. This would open up both freight exports and imports and encourage tourists into the Arava and Dead Sea areas.

The line connecting the Dead

Sea area and Gulf of Aqaba/Eilat would straddle the border, so that in times of crisis both sides would have an interest in keeping it open.

In the longer term, there is also a plan to run a Haifa to Mafraq freight service.

Talks on the planned Aqaba-Eilat airport will also intensify following the agreement on water supply.

Sharon led the push for the new water arrangement, the second of its kind since the peace agreement with Jordan was signed. A third delivery of 50 million cu.m. is also anticipated in the near future, which would complete Israel's obligations.

Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Meir is currently holding talks on

the transfer of clean water from Jordan to Israel in exchange for the supply of water for industrial purposes.

The specific project would be based in the Dead Sea area, where some 20 million cu.m. of clean spring water on the Jordanian side are currently being "wasted" on industry rather than being used for drinking.

Ben-Meir's plan is to draw that water from Jordan and transport it to the hotels along the Israeli side of the Dead Sea.

At the same time, Israel would transfer to Jordan a variety of impure sources to be used in industries along the Dead Sea.

No one was available for comment yesterday in Amman because of a national holiday.

Tadmor: Koor, Clal can't bid jointly for gas tender

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Antitrust Authority Director-General David Tadmor yesterday announced his refusal to grant the country's two leading holding companies, Koor Industries and Clal Israel, a waiver that would allow them to participate jointly in a bid for a \$600 million contract to distribute and sell natural gas.

In its current composition, the Middle East Power consortium - Koor, Clal, Mashav, the Danker Group and various petrochemical companies - would obstruct business competition in the energy sector, according to Tadmor.

"The union of competitors in joint enterprises is liable to present a threat to competition [between] businesses," Tadmor said. "Under the circumstances, I arrived at the conclusion that expanding the scope of their cooperation is not a good thing for business."

Representatives from Clal and Koor are now studying the matter and will determine if they have legal recourse, Clal spokesman Menachem Dotan said.

"This is a serious project and in order to succeed in a bid like this you have to be strong, with a lot of money and qualifications," Dotan said.

Tadmor said a union between Koor and Clal, which do have some mutual interests, would obstruct competition in the government's tender for a natural gas distributor and prevent fair competition between the natural gas and fuel oil markets.

The government is currently in the planning stages of its tender for a distribution pipeline for the natural gas market.

The Treasury and National Infrastructure Ministry have proposed allowing the consortium that wins the tender to also sell the gas.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon is expected to visit Russia next month in an effort to begin negotiating a possible deal with RAO Gazprom, the world's largest gas producer. Last month, Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu discussed such a deal.

Negotiations are also continuing with Egypt for the supply of natural gas via a land or sea pipeline.

Natural gas is an attractive alternative to oil and coal, as it is a cleaner and cheaper energy source. According to Israeli estimates, gas costs 3.2 cents per kilowatt, compared to six to seven cents per kilowatt for fuel oil.



Saudi camel market bustling

A herd of camels waits to be sold at the Riyadh camel market, one of the largest in the Arab world with more than 100 camels bought and sold daily.

(Reuters)

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Saudis discover new oil fields

RIYADH (AP) - Saudi Arabia has discovered new reserves of super-light crude oil and gas in the central region, as well as natural gas in the giant Ghawar field near the Gulf, the official Saudi Press Agency reported yesterday.

The agency quoted Deputy Oil Minister Abdul Aziz Khuwair as saying a discovery well spudded last month encountered light crude oil at a rate of 1,550 barrels per day and gas at a rate of 30,000 cubic meters per day.

He said the well, called Khuzami, is located about 120 kilometers south of Riyadh. He said that this was the 18th discovery of light crude in the central region by the state-owned Saudi Arabian Oil Company.

From the Ghawar field, test well Wafrah-1 produced more than 1.2 million cu.m. per day of gas and 2,600 barrels per day of condensate.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (23.5.97)

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	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.6723	3.7318	3.7041
U.S. dollar	3.5698	3.4232	3.3980
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	1.9917	2.0239	1.95
German mark	5.4885	5.5720	5.38
French franc	0.9912	0.9008	0.81
Japanese yen (100)	2.9083	2.9533	2.85
Dutch guilder	1.7718	1.8004	1.74
Swiss franc	2.9923	2.4312	2.35
Swedish krona	0.4436	0.4508	0.43
Norwegian krone	0.4775	0.4853	0.46
Danish krone	0.5229	0.5314	0.51
Finnish mark	0.6564	0.6701	0.64
Canadian dollar	2.4488	2.4894	2.40
Australian dollar	2.5839	2.6256	2.53
S. African rand	0.7533	0.7555	0.58
Belgian franc (10)	0.9847	0.9803	0.94
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8304	2.8761	2.78
Italian lire (1000)	2.6269	2.6335	1.98
Jordanian dinar	4.7515	4.8992	4.53
Egyptian pound	0.9800	1.0400	0.96
Irish punt	3.8828	3.9455	3.81
Spanish peseta (100)	5.0937	5.1759	5.00
	2.3820	2.4001	2.32

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Target Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 22.5.97
Purchase Price: 167.30
Redemption Price: 164.85

Prime Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 22.5.97
Purchase Price: 116.02
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SPORTS

in brief

Crewe win promotion to English first division

LONDON (Reuters) - Crewe won a place in next season's English first division when they beat Brentford 1-0 (half-time 1-0) in the second division promotion play-off final at Wembley yesterday. Shaun Smith scored the winning goal in the 34th minute in front of a crowd of 34,149.

Redknapp out with fractured ankle

LONDON (Reuters) - Midfielder Jamie Redknapp, carried off on a stretcher during England's friendly international against South Africa on Saturday, has a fractured right ankle, team officials said yesterday.

It is the third time the Liverpool player has suffered serious injuries while representing his country. He badly damaged a hamstring playing against Switzerland in 1995, which led Liverpool to claim compensation because of the club matches he subsequently missed. In Euro 96 he damaged ankle ligaments in the dying minutes of the match against Scotland which affected his fitness at the start of last season.

Lierse win Belgian title for first time since 1960

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Lierse clinched their first Belgian league title since 1960 yesterday with a 3-0 away win against Standard Liege.

Lierse took charge quickly with first-half goals from Dirk Huysmans, Eric Van Meir and David Brocken. They finished the season two points clear of outgoing champions Club Brugge. Based in Lier, a northern Belgian town of 33,000 inhabitants, Lierse sealed the title for the fourth time in their history with their first away victory over Standard Liege in 37 years.

PSV Eindhoven clinch Dutch league title

EINDHOVEN (Reuters) - PSV Eindhoven clinched their 14th Dutch league championship yesterday with a 3-1 win over Willem II Tilburg.

Goals from Luc Nilis, Wim Jonk and Gillem de Bilde ensured their victory. Second-placed Feyenoord also won, beating Heerenveen 4-2, but remained four points behind with only one match to play. PSV last won the title in 1992.

Spain whitewash Australia in World Team Cup

DUESSELDORF (Reuters) - Albert Costa withstood a barrage of aces from Mark Philippoussis yesterday to lead Spain to a 3-0 victory over Australia in the \$1.9 million World Team Cup final.

It was the fourth title in this tournament for Spain, three of them coming at the expense of Australia, and equalled the record of victories held by the US.

Philippoussis won the first set in emphatic fashion, blasting a world record 229-kph ace past Costa. The ace bettered the Australian's own world mark of 228.5 kph set in March in Scottsdale, Arizona.

It was also just one of 15 aces fired by the 20-year-old Australian at the tough-as-nails Spaniard, who came back to take the next two sets on tie-breaks, twice fighting off match points.

Tiger Woods only one shot off pace

FORT WORTH, TX (AP) - David Ogren shot an 8-under-par 62 to take the third-round lead of the MasterCard Colonial but couldn't shake the ominous spectre of young Tiger Woods.

Woods, three shots back and eight under par at the start of the third round, rode a 64 into second place Saturday.

Ogren was at 15-under 195, a stroke ahead of the 21-year-old Woods.

Reeling off six consecutive birdies at one point, and without a bogey on his card, Ogren came within a whisker of matching the course record of 61. But Woods stalked him as relentlessly as, well, a Tiger. With victories at the Masters and Byron Nelson in his last two starts, Woods is zeroing in on three straight titles and his fourth of the 1997 campaign.

Bulls embarrass Heat to take commanding 3-0 series lead

MIAMI (Reuters) - Michael Jordan bounced back from one of his worst playoff performances by scoring 34 points on Saturday as the Chicago Bulls moved within one win of the NBA Finals by embarrassing the Miami Heat 98-74.

Jordan and Scottie Pippen combined for 55 points to lead the defending NBA champions to a commanding three games to none lead over Miami in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference Finals.

"This was probably the bottom for this team this year as far as being totally embarrassed here at home," lamented Riley.

Miami committed a whopping 32 turnovers that led to 36 Chicago points and missed the record for fewest field goals in a playoff game only with their last bucket.

Instead, the Heat led the post-season rivalry mark with 21 field goals, scoring 25 of their points in a fourth quarter played almost exclusively with reserves from both teams after Chicago took a 72-49 lead into the final period.

The NBA team has ever recovered from a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series and Jordan, for one, is ready to close it out and get on with the finals.

Major League Baseball

National League					American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	33	14	.702	-	Baltimore	31	14	.689	-
Florida	28	18	.609	4 1/2	New York	26	22	.542	6 1/2
Montreal	25	20	.556	8 1/2	Toronto	23	21	.523	7 1/2
New York	26	22	.542	7 1/2	Detroit	20	28	.417	11 1/2
Philadelphia	18	29	.383	15	Boston	18	27	.400	13
Central Division					Central Division				
Houston	23	23	.500	-	Cleveland	24	21	.530	-
Pittsburgh	23	24	.489	1 1/2	Milwaukee	21	22	.489	2
St. Louis	19	27	.413	5	Chicago	21	23	.477	2 1/2
Chicago	17	29	.370	7	Kansas City	21	24	.467	3
Cincinnati	15	3	.326	9	Minnesota	19	28	.404	6
West Division					West Division				
San Francisco	27	19	.587	-	Texas	26	19	.578	-
Colorado	25	22	.532	2 1/2	Anheim	25	20	.556	1
Los Angeles	24	22	.522	3	Seattle	25	22	.528	2
San Diego	20	26	.435	7	Oakland	19	30	.388	8

Saturday's NL games: Houston 7, Colorado 9; St. Louis 9, San Francisco 3; NY Mets 8, Philadelphia 4; Montreal 7, Pittsburgh 3; Cincinnati 4, Chicago Cubs 1; 11 innings; Los Angeles 10, Atlanta 3; Florida 9, San Diego 7.

Saturday's AL games: Baltimore 8, Cleveland 3; Anaheim 3, Toronto 1; NY Yankees 4, Boston 2; Texas 5, Detroit 4; Minnesota 7, Oakland 4; Kansas City 11, Seattle 5; Chicago White Sox 8, Milwaukee 6.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL - Collated results of ninth-round AFL matches played at the weekend: Brisbane Lions 19.12 (126) def. Geelong 15.8 (98), Western Bulldogs 16.7 (103) def. North Melbourne 10.11 (71), St. Kilda 22.9 (141) def. Richmond 14.10 (94), West Coast Eagles 16.14 (110) def. Essendon 13.7 (85), Sydney Swans 16.15 (111) def. Collingwood 11.2 (74), Carlton 16.9 (105) def. Fremantle 14.4 (88), Adelaide Crows 14.18 (102) def. Hawthorn 13.10 (88), Port Adelaide 10.18 (78) def. Melbourne 3.9 (27).

INDY 500 - The Indy 500 was postponed yesterday because of heavy rain and has been rescheduled to run today.



Villeneuve back on top

Canadian Jacques Villeneuve regained the leadership of the Formula One world drivers' championship yesterday when he claimed a comfortable and assured victory in the Spanish Grand Prix. Villeneuve, in a Williams, finished 5.8 seconds ahead of Frenchman Olivier Panis - who had started from 12th position on the grid - to register his first points in three outings and record his third win of the year and the seventh of his career. It lifted him to 30 points in the drivers' title race, four more than Michael Schumacher of Germany who was fourth for Ferrari. Frenchman Jean Alesi was third.

England sweep Australians 3-0

LONDON (Reuters) - England, fired by 63 off 48 balls from debutant all-rounder Ben Hollis, completed a clean sweep of the three-match one-day international series against Australia at Lord's yesterday.

Hollis, who struck 11 fours and one six, Alec Stewart (79) and John Crawley (52) carried England to a six-wicket victory in the final game, making 270 for four in exactly 49 of their 50 overs after dismissing the touring team for 269 in 49.2 overs.

England, who won each of the previous two matches also by six wickets, seized the upper hand when Darren Gough took three for 27 in his first six overs, reducing Australia to 63 for the 11th over.

The Yorkshire pacesman, whose early wickets included Michael Bevan, scorer of an unbeaten 108 in the second game at The Oval 24 hours earlier, finished with five for 44 to equal his one-day international best.

Australia, led by Steve Waugh after out-of-form captain Mark Taylor left himself out, were indebted to a fluent 95 from 96 deliveries by opener Mark Waugh, who stroked 12 fours before becoming Gough's fourth victim.

England

M. Atherton lbw b Kasparowicz 79
A. Stewart c Langer b M. Waugh 63
B. Hollis c S. Waugh b Gillespie 52
J. Crawley run out 46
G. Thorpe not out 46
A. Hollis not out 26

Extras (9th, 4th, 13w) 26
TOTAL (49 overs) for 4 wickets: 270
Fall of wickets: 21, 113, 193, 253.
Did not bat: G. Lloyd, M. Ealham, D. Gough, R. Croft, C. Silverwood, Bowling: McGrath 9-2-45-0 (1nb), Kasparowicz 8-1-40-1 (1nb, 3w), Waugh 9-0-44-0 (5w), Gillespie 10-0-55-1 (2nb, 2w), Stewart 10-0-27-0, Waugh 4-0-22-0 (3w), Waugh 6-0-28-1.

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Avalanche blank Red Wings 6-0, narrow series to 3-2

DENVER (Reuters) - Claude Lemieux and Joe Sakic each scored twice and Patrick Roy recorded his third shutout of the playoffs as the Colorado Avalanche blanked the Detroit Red Wings 6-0 Saturday to cut their deficit in the Western Conference finals to 3-2.

Lemieux got the first two goals of the game to send the Avalanche on their way. Stephane Yelle and Scott Young also scored as the defending champions avoided elimination.

Game 6 of the best-of-seven series is today at Detroit. Blanked in Game 4 by a 6-0 score, the Avalanche drove Mike Vernon from the Detroit net less than three minutes into the second period with the score 4-0.

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THE CANADIAN EMBASSY will be holding a sale of used household and office furniture. Viewing and bidding (by sealed bids) on Thursday, May 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Friday, May 30 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Globus warehouse, 5 Eilayah Eitan, Rishon LeZion.

Stage set for open State Cup final

By DEREK FATTAL

There can only be one winner in this evening's State Cup Final showdown at the National Stadium in Ramat Gan. But neither Maccabi Tel Aviv nor Hapoel Beersheba can afford to lose the biggest match in the country's soccer calendar, nor the tantalizing European Cup Winners' Cup ticket that goes hand in hand with the handsome silver trophy.

Beersheba's league season effectively ended in bitter disappointment at the weekend after a decisive defeat at the hands of Hapoel Haifa that allowed rivals Hapoel Petah Tikva to claim second position and the single UEFA Cup berth on offer to Israeli clubs this year.

Maccabi Tel Aviv, last season's double winners, have had a awful campaign by their own high standards amassing just 45 points with one match left to play, in sharp contrast to last year's final total of 73, and their record 88 in 1993-94.

The Tel Avivians come to the final with a losing streak of five straight games, the sort of record that is guaranteed to have their fans lobbing ripe Jaffa oranges at the players if Maccabi do not raise the State Cup for the 14th time in their proud history tonight.

In sharp contrast Beersheba's trophy cupboard has never housed the State Cup, although the club has two National League championships to its credit. The southerners have only made it to the final once, in 1983-84 when they stumbled to a 3-2 defeat at the hands of Hapoel Lod.

There is some added spice to today's contest with controversy raging over Beersheba's star forward, Shai Holtzman, being linked with unauthorized transfer advances by Maccabi Tel Aviv in the run-up to the final.

Holtzman has denied claims that he has been offered a long-term contract with Maccabi, which could bring his loyalties into question for today's match. Nevertheless, Holtzman met with the private investigation firm appointed by the Israel Football Association yesterday. The investigators are also due to question Tel Aviv coach Avraham Grant and senior club executive Shimon Korek later in the week. The only certainty in the whole affair is that the results of the inquiry will not be known until after this year's final is history.

Beersheba coach Eli Gurman has also been tainted in the eyes of many of the southern club's fans, after having signed terms to coach Hapoel Haifa next season, thereby leaving some to question his continued commitment to Beersheba. With their greater experience of the big match occasion Maccabi Tel Aviv seem to have the upper hand. The Tel Aviv outfit clearly had the better of this season's two league meetings, winning the first last September at home 2-1, then inflicting a humiliating 4-1 away defeat on the southerners in February.

Since then Beersheba's fortunes have been in the ascent while Maccabi have generally plodded along. With midfielder Sidi Halilovic in their armory the Beershebas have that rare breed of player who can turn a match in an instant, suggesting that today's final will be a much more interesting affair than Tel Aviv's 4-1 romp over Ironi Rishon LeZion a year ago.

While many neutrals will be rooting for the underdogs, others will take the view that Israel's cause in Europe will be better served by the team which only just missed out on getting into the Champions' League at the beginning of the season.

The match kicks off at 17.35 and will be shown live on Channel Two.

Kafelnikov: Muster my pick for Roland Garros

PARIS (Reuters) - French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov said yesterday he was unlikely to win the crown again this year and Thomas Muster should be regarded as the favorite.

"It would take a miracle for me to retain my title," Kafelnikov, who became the first Russian to triumph on the Paris clay a year ago, told a news conference.

The 23-year-old from the Black Sea resort of Sochi, who opens his defence against Czech Martin Damm today, was sidelined for three months this season with a broken finger in his right hand.

Asked who he thought had the best chance of succeeding him, Kafelnikov named Austrian Muster, the 1995 winner.

"I know he hasn't been playing very well in his last tournaments on clay but I can't see anybody beating him, apart maybe from (Spain's) Albert Costa," he said. "When Thomas is playing best of five sets on clay, he's really tough to beat."

For the first time in years Steffi Graf will not start the French Open as the top seed but the German, fighting her way back after a long injury break, says she has other things to worry about.

"I wish I could only worry about that," Graf, second to Swiss teenager Martina Hingis in the world rankings, said yesterday.

"My ranking is not even on my mind. I have to concentrate on how I've been playing lately and on how I will be playing in the next few weeks." Graf's fitness is one of the big question marks before the Paris tournament even though her confidence has been boosted by victory in Saturday's Strasbourg final.

The German made her comeback in the German Open in Berlin the previous week after a three-month lay-off with a knee injury but her run ended in the quarter-finals when she was bundled out by Amanda Coetzer of South Africa.

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Everybody who's anybody in the local piano world will be on stage today as the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance officially inaugurates the Hephzibah Menuhin Piano Chair established through the generosity of Paul Morawetz.

German pianist Konrad Richter presents a recital to honor the 84-year-old pianist Edith Strauss. The program, featuring works by Viktor Ullmann, Brahms and Schumann, is exactly what Strauss played at the Theresienstadt ghetto in 1943.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Kyusu 3 is a documentary in the style of Short Cuts, telling the story of an apartment building in Old Jaffa which houses families of every possible type. Jews and Arabs, new immigrants and old, rich and poor, old and young, Sephardi and Ashkenazi.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

***1/2 THE ENGLISH PATIENT - Watching Anthony Minghella's Oscar-winning film after absorbing the clouds of second-hand smoke blown our way by the PR people and by positive, if five-month-old, word of mouth from friends abroad, it's hard to grasp exactly what the great fuss was about. The picture seems, at this

CRITIC'S CHOICE



Penelope Ann Miller plays an evolutionary biologist who must face a sticky-tongued monster in 'The Relic.'

late date, little more than a respectably made bit of high-class kitsch, a sometimes moving, often rather silly love story set in a series of exotic locales and peppered with just enough literary leavings from Michael Ondaatje's lyrical novel to make it acceptable to "discriminating" viewers.

*** THE RELIC - Set almost entirely within the walls of a Chicago natural history museum, Peter Hyams's cleverly trashy new horror-thriller abides by all the rules in the midnight-movie book. The title, one assumes, is meant to be ironic. Besides the literal relic at the center of the plot - a mysterious and apparently demonic tribal figure packed in a crate of genetically mutating Brazilian banana leaves - the real relic in question seems to be the picture itself, a neatly constructed, psychologically canny remnant of an antique genre, the funny yet frightening sci-fi flick. Penelope Ann Miller and Tom Sizemore star, alongside a lumbering movie monster with a long, sticky tongue and knack for speedy decapitation. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance strongly advised.)

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:32 News in Hebrew
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Computers and the Internet
8:30 Basic Arabic
9:00 Reading
9:20 Nature
9:45 Programs for the very young
10:15 Sciences
10:40 English
11:10 Social Sciences
11:40 Tolerance
12:10 Sciences
12:30 History
13:00 In the Heat of the Night
14:00 Surprise Train
14:20 Kitty Cat and TomTom
14:50 Quenten Quack
15:00 Cartoons
15:10 Without Secrets

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Tricky
7:00 Breakfast Magazine
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Studio
11:00 The Brits Empire
11:30 Alfonso Bonzo
12:00 Doug
12:30 Basic Arabic
13:00 The Arab Alliance
13:30 Open Cards
14:00 The Kids of Degraess Street
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 Super Duper
15:30 Media A Wish
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshet
17:30 Soccer: State Cup Final
20:00 News
20:30 It's Nothing
21:10 IDF 1 - original series set at a military radio studio
21:45 Dan Shilon Live
22:45 Kyusu 3 - documentary about the varied residents of an apartment building in Old Jaffa, who live in harmony despite their differences.

JORDAN TV

15:30 Holy Koran
15:35 French program
16:00 German Scene
16:30 Deep Water Haven
16:50 Ocean Girl
17:15 The Dimensions
18:00 French programs

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Spring Fever (1983) - a young girl's efforts to become a tennis star
13:10 Seating Stars (1994) (pt)
15:10 New in the Cinema
15:20 Zoo-Opolis (1988) - a look at the animals of the Milwaukee zoo
16:45 Zappa: Face the Music (1982) - a young singer meets a songwriter and together they achieve success. With Molly Ringwald and Patrick Dempsey
18:25 New in the Cinema
18:30 Summer Story (1985) - drama based on the novel by John Galsworthy. A farm girl falls for a young London banker who sprains his ankle while in the country. With Imogen Stubbs and James Wilby. Directed by Piers Haggard.

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CABLE

16:00 Cartoons
16:00 Panama
17:00 Adventures and Challenges
18:00 Her Majesty's Tears
18:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Doctors Talk
20:00 News
20:45 International Art Magazine
21:15 The Cassandra Crossing (1977) - star-studded thriller about a cross-continent train carrying a terrorist infected with a deadly virus, whom no country will accept. With Richard Harris, Sophia Loren, Ava Gardner and Burt Reynolds. Directed by George Pan Cosmatos.
23:20 The Duchess of Duke Street

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now
16:00 Wildlife in Russia
16:30 Investigative Eye
17:00 Fruits of the Earth
17:15 Milestones in Science and Technology
17:30 Faces of Culture
18:00 Basic Arabic
18:30 Family Connections
19:00 Computers and the Internet
19:30 Vis & Vis
19:50 Hello Pina
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Cybernet
21:00 Star Trek: Deep Space 9
21:45 Situation
22:45 Female Power
23:15 Israeli Pop

CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (pt)
Yossi Sivas (pt)
8:30 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (pt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives (pt)
11:15 Argara (pt)
12:00 Barnaby Jones
12:45 The Streets of San Francisco
13:00 Hope and Gloria
14:00 Dallas
14:50 Days of Our Lives

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (18:30-23:00) listing TV programs and channels.

18:05 Journey to the Center of the Earth
19:30 Step by Step
20:00 Animaniacs
20:45 Roseanne
21:30 The Cosby Show
22:00 Different Drummer
22:30 The Thin Blue Line

Geographic
23:30 Open University - Struggle for Democracy: Roman City
EUROSPORT
9:30 Mountain Bike World Cup, Italy
10:30 IndyCar World Series
12:00 Tennis: French Open Roland Garros - live
15:00 Soccer: Junior Tour, France - France vs. Croatia; Morocco vs. Mexico
23:00 Eurogoals
02:00 Tennis: French Open Roland Garros magazine
1:00 Snooker: Euro League

6:00 Frost's Century
7:00 The Best of the Ticket
7:30 Travel Xpress
8:00 Today
10:00 European Squawk Box
11:00 European Money Wheel
15:30 CNBC Squawk Box
17:00 Interiors by Design
17:30 Gardening by the Yard
18:00 The Site
19:00 National Geographic Television - Risk Takers
20:00 The Ticket
20:30 VIP
21:00 Dataline
22:00 NHL Power Week
23:00 The Best of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno
23:30 Spanish Grand Prix
13:00 Cycling: Marlboro tour of the Philippines
13:30 Sports India
14:00 Golf: Inside PGA
14:30 Trans World Sport
15:30 Basketball: PBA Philippine Cup Final
17:00 Cycling: Marlboro tour of the Philippines
17:30 Tennis: US ATP Clay Court Championship
18:00 International Motorsports News
20:00 Cycling: Asian Championship
21:30 Super League Rugby
22:30 Golf: China Open
00:30 Golf: Inside PGA
1:00 Tennis: US ATP Clay Court Championship
2:30 Cycling: Marlboro tour of the Philippines

6:30 Nine To Five
7:00 Pierre Franey's Cooking
7:30 GI Joe
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9:00 International Dynasties
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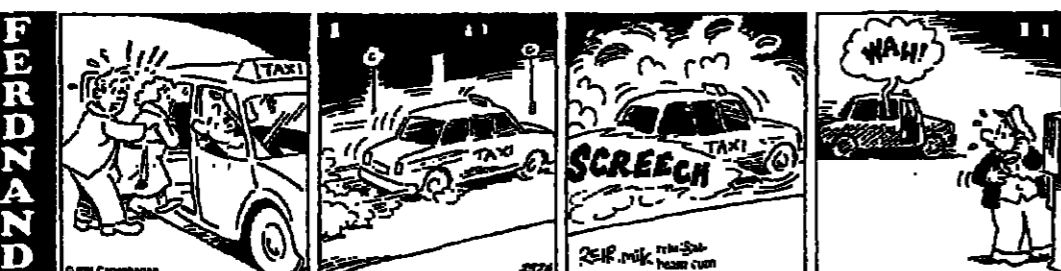
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Publicity drive meant set changes being made (13)
10 Preliminary plan for striking bar (7)
11 Opposed to modern poetry (7)
12 Pretty good entertainment (4)
13 Make off with least disturbance (5)
14 Put down a number to give assistance (4)
17 Cold wind - Easterly (7)
18 Doctor keeping issue out of press (7)
19 A note indicates "Quits" with 7
22 Fathers with internal trouble may turn to drink (4,3)
24 Meat pie can be so boring (4)

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Includes 'SOLUTIONS' and 'QUICK CROSSWORD' sections.

QUICK CROSSWORD section with clues and answers for a smaller crossword puzzle.

MOVIES section listing various films, their cast, and showtimes. Includes titles like 'The English Patient', 'The Saint', 'The Associate', etc.

